



WILDLIFE HABITAT ECOLOGY MANAGEMENT

BSC 435.01E / AG 435.01E

COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Walter Paulin Taponjou Nkonmeneck
Course Location: Science Building 136
Office Location: STC Room #208
Office Hours: TR 1-2:30 PM (Zoom link or in person)
University Email Address: Walter.Taponjou@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: **Email**
Communication Response Time: less than 48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbooks (Recommended, not mandatory):

Title: The Wildlife Techniques Manual (volume 1&2)
Author(s): Nova J. Silvy (Editor)
Edition: and/or Publication Date: 7th Edition
ISBN: 9781421401591
Publisher: The Johns Hopkins University Press

Additional Texts and/or Materials:

Research papers will be shared by instructor either via email or in MyLeo online.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Course Description

This class delves into the history and concepts of an animal's habitat, starting with the ideas of Aldo Leopold and progressing to contemporary notions of what constitutes a habitat. Students will gain insights into the principles and techniques of habitat management, applying them to forest, rangeland, wetland, and agricultural ecosystems. Additionally, they will explore current conservation biology concepts such as fragmentation, meta-population ecology, and corridor ecology. Enrollment in this course requires students to be willing to attend field trips when and where feasible to observe actual management practices in the field.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. General concepts of wildlife-habitat relationships as they pertain to wildlife management and conservation biology.
2. Wildlife-habitat measurements useful in the manipulation and management of wildlife populations and their habitats.
3. Wildlife habitat modification techniques useful in the manipulation of succession on the landscape.
4. Evaluate and perform wildlife habitat assessments to develop a habitat management plan.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

- Proficiency in using the D2L Brightspace Learning Management System through myLeo Online.
- Proficiency in the use of Microsoft Word, and PowerPoint.
- Other relevant skills in using GPS, and Google Maps.

Instructional Methods

This course meets in-person in the traditional lecture format. You will be required to read the book chapters, supplemental reading material, and instructional PowerPoint slides. Quizzes and exams will cover the material presented to you via myLEO Online and information in the text. I will post announcements on the course homepage to remind students of important due dates, in addition to announcing them in class. Students can monitor their progress in the course on the course webpage in D2L Brightspace.

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Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

- Dedicated study time each week to go over the materials covered in the class and the information in the relevant book chapter(s).
- Regularly checking both myLEO Online (D2L Brightspace) and emails for course-related announcements.
- Completing assignments on time. Late assignments will be penalized.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%, B = 80%-89%, C = 70%-79%, D = 60%-69%, F = 59% or Below

Assessments

You will be assessed based on the grades from the 10 weekly quizzes (13%), Group project (13%), two exams (27%), Field trip notes (13%), Research paper and oral presentation (13%), and cumulative final exam (20%). Below is a breakdown of potential grades that can be earned in the class:

Assignment	Max point	Times	Points	% of final grade
<i>Exams</i>	100	2	200	27%
<i>Group projects (Management plans)</i>	100	1	100	13%
<i>Field trip notes</i>	50	2	100	13%
<i>Weekly quizzes</i>	10	10	100	13%
<i>Research paper and presentation</i>	100	1	100	13%
<i>Final Exam</i>	150	1	150	20%
<i>Total</i>			750	

Wildlife management Field trips

There will be at least two mandatory field trips near campus. Students must take notes on these trips and create a "Wildlife Management Plan" with recommendations based on the habitat conditions and conservation goals for target and/or non-target wildlife. These papers will be approximately 5 pages long and include a brief synopsis, detailed boundary maps, lists of species of interest, photo documentation, preliminary analysis, habitat recommendations, and a summary. Students must wear appropriate footwear and clothing for outdoor field travel.

Weekly quizzes

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There will be 10 weekly quizzes worth 20 points apiece. Each quiz will consist of approximately 10 questions (e.g., true or false, multiple choice, matching, etc.) from modules, readings, videos and any other material assigned for that week and account for a maximum of 100 pts each week. Each quiz is comprehensive and could cover any material covered prior to that week's quiz. Quizzes will be made available on Tuesday mornings and need to be completed before 11:59 p.m. on Sunday night of that week. will cover the two previous weeks.

Management plan

Group project – Students will form groups and will be responsible for writing a wildlife habitat management plan for a property or species of their choice. Management plans can serve to guide landowners seeking an agricultural wildlife valuation for their properties (Texas House Bill 1358, Proposition 11) and will follow TPWD Comprehensive Wildlife Management Planning Guidelines. Students will be required to develop a management plan addressing 1 landowner objective and at least 1 qualifying management practice. Typically, official plans have 3 objectives and 3 qualifying practices; however, for the purpose of this assignment, I want the student to focus on 1 objective and at least 1 qualifying management practice. The written plan will be graded on application of qualifying practice, content, writing style/clarity, and grammar. The end of week 8, is the deadline to submit your group project management plan, via D2L or emailed to me (walter.tapondjou@etamu.edu).

Research paper and oral presentation

This will focus on the life history and habitat requirements for a wildlife species or guild in North America. Students will research their species, design a study to assess the species' feeding habits and preferences in the fall, and develop a short PowerPoint presenting the results of their research project. The posters will be presented to your classmates. The research project and oral presentation will contribute 70% and 30% of the final grade, respectively.

Midterm and Final Exams

There will be two three exams: two midterm exams, and a final exam (**TBA**) during the Fall 2025 final week (Dec. 6th-12th). Like the Weekly Quizzes, exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer and designed to simultaneously assess your knowledge and critical analytical skills. Thus, Weekly quizzes will be good practice for the exams. The final exam will be cumulative.

Makeup Policy

The student is responsible for requesting a makeup exam when they are unable to attend the regularly scheduled examination and must schedule the makeup exam within 2 days of the absence. Makeup exams will be scheduled only in the event of an

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EXCUSED absence (as defined in the Student's Guidebook). If the test is not made up, the student will receive a zero for that exam.

Extra credit

Class participation is the most effective way to earn extra credit. To simplify the process, students can submit their questions before class in D2L or by email to the instructor. The question will be answered during the lecture.

Tentative Course schedule: *(adjustments may be made later at instructor's discretion)

Week	Date	Topic	Heads up	Assigned readings/ Chapters
1	26-Aug	Introduction, Syllabus, Expectations. Wildlife management: historical overview, basic laws, and regulations, Leopold's tools		
	28-Aug	Leopold's 5 "Tools" of Wildlife Management; modern adaptations		
2	2-Sep	Habitat Management for Wildlife in Federal Lands-National Parks		
	4-Sep	Overview of common techniques for evaluation of wildlife habitat use: trapping, marking, location	Quiz 1 due on Sept 8th	
3	9-Sep	Using GIS for Wildlife Habitat Management		
	11-Sep	Managing Farmlands for Wildlife	Quiz 2 due on Sept 15th	
4	16-Sep	Field trip1: TBD		
	18-Sep	Habitat Management for Wildlife in Forests	Quiz 3 due on Sept 21st	
5	23-Sep	Field techniques for habitat measurements		
	25-Sep	Field trip 2: TBD	Quiz 4 due on Sept 28th	
6	30-Sep	Exam 1		
	2-Oct	Habitat Management for Wildlife in Rangelands	Quiz 5 due on Oct 5th	
7	7-Oct	Herbivore Management		
	9-Oct	Upland game management: Quail, Pheasant, Turkey	Quiz 6 due on Oct 12th	
8	14-Oct	Upland game management: Furbearers		
	16-Oct	Small mammal/reptile sampling and research design		
9	21-Oct	Small mammal/reptile sampling data analysis	Habitat Management Plan due	
	23-Oct	Mesocarnivore management		
10	28-Oct	Exam 2		
	30-Oct	Use of dogs for wildlife management	Quiz 7 due on Nov 2nd	

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11	4-Nov	Fire ecology and Wildlife: Impact assessments and mitigation planning		
	6-Nov	Habitat Management for Wildlife in Wetlands	Quiz 8 due on Nov 9th	
12	11-Nov	Amphibian and reptile's habitat management		
	13-Nov	Urban wildlife overview	Quiz 9 due on Nov 16th	
13	18-Nov	Urban wildlife mitigation		
	20-Nov	Wildlife health and disease	Quiz 10 due on Nov 22nd	
14	25-Nov	Captive breeding program		
	27-Nov	Thanksgiving Break		
15	2-Dec	Student presentation		
	4-Dec	Student presentation		
16	6th-12th Dec	Final Exam	TBA	

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TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

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Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedures 13.99.99.R0.01](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

Graduate Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Student Disability Services](#)

<https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

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Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.

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<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>

AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty