



## Course Syllabus Spring 2026: AG 423-01W Natural Resources Management

**Instructor:** Alma E. Perez, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor  
ALEC – Urban Agriculture

**Email:** [alma.perez@tamuc.edu](mailto:alma.perez@tamuc.edu)

**Office:** 8750 N Central Expy Suite 1900 Box 30, Dallas, TX 75231. Office 2020  
Commerce: AGET 145

**Office Hours:**

To assist students in person or online I will maintain an open-door policy Tuesday to Thursday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Alternatively, you are welcome to arrange a meeting time on Zoom for an alternative day.

**Course Meeting Time and Location:** Asynchronous via D2L.

**Materials & Textbooks:** No textbook is required, the material will be provided in D2L

Hours: 3.0

**Description:** An investigation of best management practices and conservation techniques used by landowners and managers to protect renewable natural resources from intensive agricultural production methods. Emphasis will be on preventing soil loss and contamination, maintaining water quality, and protecting wildlife habitat.

Prerequisites: Junior standing or instructor approval.

**Course Rationale:** This course deals with a variety of issues related to the management of renewable natural resources and the impact of agricultural enterprises on the environment. Among the major concepts included are renewable natural resource conservation, water protection, and appropriate land use. The course will utilize ecological and sustainable perspectives, where applicable.

Course concepts will emphasize these themes:

- Perspectives of Ecology, Conservation, and Sustainability
- Soil and Water Conservation and Protection
- Livestock and Poultry Waste Management
- Wildlife, Timber, and Farm Pond Management
- Regulations, Permits, and Governmental Agencies

Textbook(s) Required: No text required. However, students will have to access and print or download reports, bulletins, and other publications from the Internet. Students may have to download the latest version of some software including Adobe Acrobat Reader, Window Media Player, Microsoft Office and QuickTime to access course resources. If students experience difficulties with specific technology requirements, IT Support Services can be reached at 903-468-6000 or [helpdesk@etamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@etamu.edu).

## Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Describe examples of how production agriculture impacts the environment.
2. Describe the environmental, economic, social, and regulatory issues that influence NRM perspectives.
3. Recognize the interrelationships of organisms within the ecosystem.
4. Understand the levels of ecological development.
5. Interpret illustrations of nutrient cycles.
6. Describe factors contributing to soil erosion.
7. Define components and characteristics of soils.
8. Match land capability classes with appropriate production type or land use.
9. Explain the difference between sustainable agriculture, traditional or commercial agriculture, and organic farming.
10. Describe the factors contributing to the concept of sustainability in agricultural context.
11. Discuss the social and economic considerations related to sustainable agriculture.
12. Describe basic concepts of forest management.
13. Recognize relationships between forest management and wildlife habitat.
14. Discuss timber production methods in context of NRM perspectives.
15. Describe the basic concepts of Integrated Pest Management (IPM).
16. Explain the concept of stewardship as applied to soil management and watershed protection.
17. Discuss the potential and problems of using several types of livestock, poultry and human waste for soil improvement.
18. Identify the major components of a Nutrient Management Plan.
19. Discuss limitations and restrictions related to beneficial land use permits.
20. List government agencies involved in environmental regulation and resource conservation.

## COURSE STRUCTURE & REQUIREMENTS

This is an online course, and it is the responsibility of the student to log into the course weekly and complete all assigned tasks. The course outline below identifies due dates for discussions, assignments, quizzes, module exams, and the final exam. Any changes will be communicated via email and D2L.

## **Course Communication**

Your ETAMU email account will be the only email address used for this course, and it will be your responsibility to check it regularly (at least once every 24 hours).

## **Course Structure**

This course is organized into seven online modules. Each module includes an overview; lecture notes and review of related websites, documents, and/or videos; online discussions on relevant topics/issues; assignment; quiz; and a module exam.

- The semester starts at 12:00 pm Monday, January 12 2026 which is the start of week 1/ module 1.
- Modules are scheduled to begin at 12: 00 pm the designated Monday. Reading materials remain accessible throughout the course; however, discussions, quizzes and assignment submissions close automatically at 11:59 p.m. every Sunday.

## **Active Online Participation and Digital Etiquette**

Students are expected to log in and participate in the discussion and activities related to each module. Participation points are earned through active and useful engagement in discussion threads. Discussion threads are intended to be a safe environment for peer-to-peer discourse on potentially controversial topics. Post comments, and respond to comments, with respectful, appropriate language and relevant content. Disrespectful or inappropriate comments will be removed, and appropriate action taken as needed.

## **Types of Assessments**

### **Assignments**

Modules will include assignments that extend beyond the virtual boundaries of the myLEO Online format. Details of these assignments will be provided online in myLEO Online.

### **Quizzes**

Each module will contain a quiz that consists of multiple choice, matching, true or false and other format questions.

### **Module Exams**

Module exams will serve as a comprehensive assessment of the student's understanding of the issues and practices associated with the management of renewable natural resources discussed within each module. Exams have the potential to consist of multiple-choice, true-false, matching short answers and other format questions. All material (lecture notes, power points, etc.) except for references, is subject to be on the exam. PLEASE REVIEW ALL CONTENT ON LECTURE NOTES.

## Final Exam

The final exam will be an overall comprehensive assessment of the student's understanding of the issues and practices associated with the management of renewable natural resources. The final exam has the potential to consist of multiple-choice, true-false, matching and short answer

### Note:

**All types of assessments close every Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Late submissions are accepted only with a valid reason and with instructor notification, either in advance (when the reason is known) or immediately after the issue occurs. Requests made days or weeks after the deadline (e.g., 2, 3, 4, or more weeks later) will not be considered.**

### Topics:

**Module 1:** Perspectives of Natural Resources Management

**Module 2:** Ecological Aspects of Natural Resources Management

**Module 3:** Soil Conservation and Land Capability

**Module 4:** Watershed Protection and Agricultural Water Use

**Module 5:** Sustainable Agriculture Concepts and Practices

**Module 6:** Forest and Wildlife Resources

**Module 7:** Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Each module will contain a course overview and lecture, a discussion, an assignment, a quiz and a module exam.

### Grading

### Assignments

✓	Student Introduction (extra points)	5
✓	Quizzes (7 at 20 points each)	140
✓	Module Exams (7 at 35 points each)	245
✓	Module 7 Assignment – PowerPoint Presentation	100
✓	Course Reflection Assignment – Final Assignment	100
✓	Final Exam	200

	Total Possible Points	795
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Final Grade = Points earned   X 100  
 790

Grading Scale

A = 90 or above,  
 B = 80-89,  
 C = 70-79,  
 D = 60-69,  
 F = below 60)

### **Use of Artificial Intelligence**

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, Chat GPT 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

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus during the semester, if needed. 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. The instructor also reserves the right to extend credit for alternative assignments, projects, or presentations.

### **TECHNOLOGY ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

The electronic gradebook on D2L will be used in this course.

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

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace [D2L] , please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click here "<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>" to submit an issue via email.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

### *Interaction with Instructor Statement*

The professor will be accessible to students via email as well as the professor will have specific office hours and times when students may schedule an appointment. Email is the most effective form of correspondence with the professor. Do not attempt to text, Skype, or Facetime the professor. **Response to emails, except for the weekends** or during times which the professor may be in remote area conducting research, will normally occur within 24 hours or receipt of the original message.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### 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\*\*](#).

[\*\*http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf\*\*](http://www.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:

[\*\*Netiquette\*\* <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html)

#### *ETAMU Attendance*

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

[\*\*http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx\*\*](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx)

[\*\*http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf\*\*](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf)

#### *Academic Integrity*

Students at East Texas A&M University 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\*\*](#)

[\*\*http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf\*\*](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf)

[\*\*Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10\*\*](#)

[\*\*http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf\*\*](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf)

#### *ADA Statement*

#### **Students with Disabilities**

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*

East Texas A&M University

Gee Library- Room 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

[\*\*http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/\*\*](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

#### *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.

***Campus Concealed Carry Statement***

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University 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.

<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.

***COVID-19 /Pandemic Conditions and Response***

If another pandemic occurs, you may face periods of isolation or restriction of movement. Since this is an online course, it is designed for your completion from anywhere that internet access exists. If you do not have internet access in your current residence, you need to identify how you will access your assignments if you cannot leave. This may include the use of a smart phone or other digital device that can offer connectivity. Most assignments can be completed offline, but the internet may be required for research, online discussions, and the uploading of assignments/projects. If you have a medical reason for an assignment to be delayed, I will excuse that. Internet access, or the lack of it, is not a medical excuse.