



BSC 416 WILDLIFE POPULATION BIOLOGY

COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2026 CRN: 23591

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Walter Paulin Taponjou Nkonmeneck

Class Location: McDowell Administration 346

Office Location: STC 208

Office Hours: MWF 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (By appointment, meeting either via Zoom link or in person)

Office Phone: (903) 886-5221

University Email Address: walter.taponjou@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: **email**

Communication Response Time: less than 48hr

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbooks:

Required: Gotelli, N.J. 2008. A Primer of Ecology. 4th Ed. Sinauer Associates, Sunderland, MA. (other additions are also okay)

Additional Texts and/or Materials:

Conservation of wildlife populations. Mills et al., Blackwell publishing (Any edition)

A selection of readings from the primary scientific literature will be provided throughout the semester.

Course Description

This course outlines processes governing the abundance and distribution of animals and plants, and the consequences for natural resource management. Practical applications lie in wildlife management, sustainable harvesting of resources, pest control and conservation of endangered species. Topics will include mathematical models of population growth, population viability analysis, and metapopulations, dispersal, population harvesting, predation, population cycles, and competition.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Define basic biological concepts and processes, as well as the mechanisms behind natural phenomena.
2. apply the principles of genetics to explain the transmission of phenotypes across generations.
3. apply ecological theories and principles to diagram interspecies interactions and interactions with the abiotic components of the ecosystem.
4. explain evolution and natural selection to describe species and population-level changes in ecology and behavior.

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.
- Bring a scientific calculator to all exams, one that can perform log and In functions and exponents (for example TI-30XII \$10 at Staples or Target).

Graphic calculators are not allowed.

Instructional Methods

The course will meet in person on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. On Mondays and Tuesdays, you will be required to read the book chapters, supplemental reading material, and instructional PowerPoint slides. On Fridays, there will be a paper discussion. 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.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

- Attend all classes
- 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.
- Actively participate by asking questions in class/office hours

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- Completing assignments on time. Late assignments will be penalized by 10% of the grade.

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

Exams

Exams will consist mostly of multiple-choice question, short essay questions and numerical problems. They will cover lectures, and readings. There is no final exam. Each exam will cover a portion of the course material.

Problem Sets

There will be five problem sets during the semester. These will give you a chance to work through some of the principles we cover in lecture and will usually tend towards the numerical end of things. Most of the problem sets are worth 4 pts, but there will be one longer problem set worth 8 pts. As with the Short Assignments, you can talk to your classmates or others about the problem sets but the work you turn in should be your own. This means that anything you write is written in your own words and any figures are made by you.

Research paper and presentation

Reading and assimilating information is a critical part of your current and continuing education. Each student will choose an area of interest to write a paper and prepare a presentation. The presentation/posters will be presented to your classmates. The research project and oral presentation will contribute 70% and 30% of the final Research grade, respectively.

Mini Quiz

"During the semester you will have five short written quiz. Each will be handed out on a Wednesday and due at the start of lecture on the following Monday. They are usually a single question designed to encourage you to think about the lecture material and draw connections between quantitative descriptions of phenomena and the underlying concepts. You can talk to your classmates or others about these assignments but the work you turn in should be your own. This means that anything you write is written in your own words and any figures are made by you.

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Assessments

You will be assessed based on the grades from the exam, the problem solving and the research paper and presentation. Below is a breakdown of potential grades that can be earned in the class:

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Max point</i>	<i>Times</i>	<i>Points</i>
<i>Exams</i>	100	3	300
<i>Problems</i>	20	8*	160
<i>Research Paper & Presentation</i>	100	1	100
<i>Mini quiz</i>	20	5	100
<i>Total</i>			660

* The number of problems will depend on how many students will be taking the class.

Make-up policy

Make-up will only be given if arrangements are made with the instructor before missing the scheduled quiz. A documented excuse will be required. Otherwise, missing assignments will be counted as zeroes in the overall grade computation.

Course Outline/Calendar

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

Week	Date	Topic	Heads up
1	12-Jan	Welcome/Introduction, Course overview and expectations	
	14-Jan	Density independent growth	
	16-Jan	Density independent growth	
2	19-Jan	MLK, Jr. Day – Campus closed	
	21-Jan	Density dependent growth and intraspecific competition	
	23-Jan	Density dependent growth and intraspecific competition	
3	26-Jan	Density dependent growth and intraspecific competition	
	28-Jan	Density dependent growth and intraspecific competition	Spring Census Day
	30-Jan	<i>Problem solving</i>	Instructor led
4	2-Feb	Population regulation	

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	4-Feb	Population regulation	
	6-Feb	<i>Problem solving</i>	Student led
5	9-Feb	Population with age structure	
	11-Feb	Population with age structure	
	13-Feb	Exam I	
6	16-Feb	Metapopulation ecology	
	18-Feb	Metapopulation ecology	
	20-Feb	<i>Problem solving</i>	Student led
7	23-Feb	Life history strategies	
	25-Feb	Life history strategies	
	27-Feb	<i>Problem solving</i>	Student led
8	2-Mar	Interspecific competition	
	4-Mar	Interspecific competition	
	6-Mar	<i>Problem solving</i>	Student led
9	9-Mar	Spring Break	Campus closed
	11-Mar	Spring Break	Campus closed
	13-Mar	Spring Break	Campus closed
10	16-Mar	Mutualism	
	18-Mar	Mutualism	
	20-Mar	Exam II	
11	23-Mar	Host-Parasite Interactions	
	25-Mar	Host-Parasite Interactions	
	27-Mar	<i>Problem solving</i>	Student led
12	30-Mar	Predator-Prey Interactions	
	1-Apr	Predator-Prey Interactions	
	3-Apr	<i>Problem solving</i>	Student led
13	6-Apr	Plant-Herbivore Interactions	
	8-Apr	Plant-Herbivore Interactions	
	10-Apr	<i>Problem solving</i>	Student led
14	13-Apr	Multi-trophic interactions	
	15-Apr	Multi-trophic interactions	
	17-Apr	<i>Problem solving</i>	Student led
15	20-Apr	Research paper presentation	
	22-Apr	Research paper presentation	
	24-Apr	Research paper presentation	
16	27-Apr	Research paper presentation	
	29-Apr	Review	
	1-May	Last day of Class	

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	8th May	Exam III	10:30 – 12:30
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TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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@etamu.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.

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>

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COURSE

CWID and Password

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@etamu.edu.

Technology-Related Issues

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 ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students will need reliable computer and internet access for this course. Students must be able to effectively use myLeo email, myLeo Online D2L, and Microsoft Office.

Learning Management System (LMS) – D2L

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

- View the [Learning Management System Requirements Webpage](#).
- Learn more on the [LMS Browser Support Webpage](#).

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 on the [Brightspace Support Webpage](#).

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

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Interaction with Instructor Statement

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor. Correspondence will always be through university email (your “myLeo” mail) and announcements in myLeo online (D2L). You will not RECEIVE email through D2L, so be sure to check your ETAMU email for communication. Students are encouraged to check university email daily.

Include the Following in Emails with Instructor:

- Course name and subject in the subject line
- Salutation (Good afternoon, Dr. Jackson)
- Proper email etiquette (no “text” emails – use proper grammar and punctuation)
- Student name and CWID after the body of the email (possibly add to student signature on email)

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY 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.

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 online in the [Student Guidebook](#).

Students should also consult the [Rules of Netiquette Webpage](#) for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#)

Academic Integrity

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

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

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Use of Artificial Intelligence

East Texas A&M University 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

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

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

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Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Services](#)

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 ETAMU 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.

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

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health – Counseling Services

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, 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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As an Institutional Member of the National Association of Schools of Music, East Texas State A&M University supports the Association's commitment to student health and wellness. The following web address provides links to information for resources related to physical and mental well-being, as well as assists in offering preventative measures that students can take to avoid serious and/or chronic conditions: [Musician Health and Safety - East Texas A&M University](#)

Department and Accrediting Agency Statements:

School of Music Mission Statement:

The School of Music at East Texas A&M University promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

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