

Course Title: Natural Resources Management

Course Number, Section: Ag 423 01W

Instructor Name: Dr. Charles Hoitt

Course Text line: (806) 318-8710

use text header 411 for common questions; 911 for emergencies (ex. D2L is down at a due date)

Email: charles.hoitt@etamu.edu

Office: AGET 154

Office Hours: Open Door and By Appointment

Online Office Hours: Outlook Calendar Appointment requests only.

Course Description:

An investigation of sustainable agricultural and conservation practices that promote the health and productivity of working landscapes while safeguarding natural resources. Emphasis is placed on soil conservation, water quality enhancement, habitat stewardship, and the integration of agricultural production with ecological sustainability. Students will examine management approaches designed to balance human and environmental needs, fostering resilient ecosystems and thriving agricultural enterprises.

Course Learning Outcomes & Methods for Assessing Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course students will be able to:

1. Identify and critique alternative explanations for claims about social issues and human behavior. *Methods for assessment: Exams, Weekly Assignments, and Discussion Forums*
2. Explain the interdependent relationship between agricultural production and natural resource conservation.
Methods for assessment: Weekly discussion forums, quizzes, and unit exams.
3. Assess the health and function of soil, water, wildlife, air, and energy resources within working landscapes.
Methods for assessment: Weekly assignments, quizzes, discussion forums, and unit exams.
4. Interpret the regulatory and institutional frameworks that guide natural resource management decisions.

Methods for assessment: Weekly assignments, quizzes, discussion forums, and unit exams.

5. Recommend management strategies that enhance both agricultural viability and ecosystem sustainability.

Methods for assessment: Weekly assignments, peer discussions, unit exams, and the AI-assisted self-guided research presentation.

6. Design integrated resource management plans that promote environmental stewardship, agricultural productivity, and long-term resilience.

Methods for assessment: Weekly assignments and the AI-assisted self-guided research recorded presentation (cumulative final assessment).

Instructor Policies:

Generative AI Usage

Generative AI applications (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, DALL·E, Grammarly, or similar applications) may only be used in this course for **specific assignments where the instructor explicitly permits their use.** Unless otherwise stated in the syllabus or assignment guidelines, AI assistance is not allowed. Using AI in unauthorized contexts or submitting AI-generated content as your own work may constitute a violation of academic integrity and may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. When using AI in permitted contexts as outlined in the syllabus or explicitly permitted by the instructor, you are responsible for ensuring that AI-generated content is properly cited, accurate, ethical, free of misinformation or intellectual property violations. AI-generated content must never be submitted as your own work. Doing so may constitute a violation of academic integrity and may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Please contact me if you have questions regarding this course policy. I embrace the technology coming from a private sector business owner background. I am open to discussion and exploring its use further in courses and research. I will give bonus opportunities and assignments that use generative AI in the context of the course.

Any generative AI use should be cited AND clearly disclosed according to the instructions in this syllabus and/or individual assignments. An example of an APA citation (7th ed. format) is seen here:

OpenAI. (2025). ChatGPT (May 2025 version) [Large language model]. <https://chat.openai.com>

Weekly assignments are available in advance and are expected to be completed by the published deadline. Students have the entire week to complete assigned coursework; therefore, late work is generally not accepted.

Late, Incomplete, and Make-Up Work Policy

Assignments not submitted by the deadline will receive a grade of **zero (0)**. Make-up work will only be considered when required by University policy or under extraordinary circumstances approved by the instructor. Approval is rare and should not be expected.

Students participating in approved University-sponsored activities or other excused absences recognized by the University are responsible for coordinating with the instructor in advance whenever possible. Because course materials and assignments are available before their due dates, students are expected to complete coursework prior to the absence.

Requests for an Incomplete grade will be considered only in accordance with University policies.

Students should consult the University SOPs, Catalog, and Student Handbook for governing policies related to absences, incomplete grades, and academic responsibilities. In all cases, University policy shall govern.

Grade Breakdown & Grading Scale:

Online Course Flow

Each Unit will have a weekly quiz and asynchronous discussion, at least 1 assignment, and end with an Exam. The course will conclude with a comprehensive final exam. Week starts on Monday and ends on Sunday; all times given are Central Standard Time.

Weekly Quizzes will open on Mondays at 6 am and be due Fridays by 5pm, except on exam weeks.

Weekly Asynchronous Discussions will open on Mondays at 6 am, First post Due Wednesdays by 11:59 pm, and full discussion will be due Saturdays by 11:59 pm.

Assignments will open on Tuesdays at 6 am and be due Sundays by 11:59pm

Exams will be given in 2 parts except for Exam 3 which is all discussion only.

Multiple Choice will open on Thursday at 5 pm and be due Sunday by 11:59 pm

Discussion Section will open Tuesday at 5 pm and be due Sunday by 11:59 pm

Comprehensive Final Exam: This course utilizes a research project in lieu of a formal examination. *Self-Guided AI Assisted Research Presentation* will be referred to as the Final. Students will have 2 weeks to complete the Final. The final will release November 20th at 5pm and be due December 4th by 5pm.

Grade Breakdown

<i>Category</i>	<i>Point Value</i>
<i>Exam 1 (60% multiple choice, 40% discussion)</i>	100
<i>Exam 2 (40% multiple choice, 60% discussion)</i>	100
<i>Exam 3 (100% discussion)</i>	100
<i>Assignments (6x)</i>	140
<i>Discussions (12x 30 points each)</i>	360
<i>Quizzes (10x 10 points each)</i>	100
<i>Comprehensive Final: Self-Guided AI Assisted Research Presentation</i>	100
<i>Final Bonus Points</i>	Max 3% of Individual Student Total Points
TOTAL	1000

Grading Scale

A > 900 B 799.1-899.99 C 650-790 D 555.1- 649.99 F <555

Required textbooks:

Required Text:

[Environmental Science: A Need for Living Sustainably](#)

- Joseph Shostell
- ISBN (Digital): 978-1-4533-9138-9

University Policies:

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/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

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 Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01.

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

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

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

Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form

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

Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.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: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

<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 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. The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

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**