

Course Title: Big Game Management

Course Number, Section:

Ag 381, 01E

Instructor Name: Dr. Charles Hoitt

Class Location:

AGET 238

Meeting time:

Tuesday and Thursday 12:30-1:45pm

PHONE: (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 Location: AGET 154

Office Hours: Open Door and By Appointment

Course Description:

This course examines the principles and practices of big game management in North America, with an emphasis on the conservation and management of major game species in Texas. Students will explore the biological, ecological, and human dimensions of wildlife management through topics including taxonomy, life history characteristics, population dynamics, harvest management, habitat management, and conservation ecology.

Through lectures, discussions, case studies, and applied management examples, students will develop an understanding of how science-based wildlife management is used to sustain healthy populations and conserve wildlife resources. Emphasis is placed on evaluating contemporary management challenges and applying biological and ecological principles to real-world decision making. The course provides a foundation for understanding the role of wildlife professionals, landowners, and resource managers in maintaining sustainable big game populations and habitats while balancing ecological, economic, and social considerations.

Course Learning Outcomes & Methods for Assessing Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. **Identify** major big game species and describe their taxonomy, distribution, and life history characteristics. *Methods for assessment: Activities & Assignments, Quizzes, Midterm and Final project*
2. **Explain** fundamental principles of wildlife ecology and population dynamics as they relate to big game management. *Methods for assessment: Activities & Assignments, Quizzes, Midterm and Final project*

3. **Apply** population and harvest management concepts to evaluate the status and sustainability of big game populations. *Methods for assessment: Midterm and Final project*
4. **Assess** habitat conditions and recommend management practices that support conservation and population management objectives. *Methods for assessment: Midterm and Final project*
5. **Analyze** the biological, ecological, economic, and social factors that influence wildlife management decisions. *Methods for assessment: Activities & Assignments, Quizzes*
6. **Develop** science-based management recommendations that address contemporary challenges in big game management and conservation. *Methods for assessment: Midterm and Final project*

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>

Incomplete, Late, and Make-up work

Students are expected to submit all assignments by the published due date and time. Work not submitted by the deadline will receive a grade of **zero (0)** unless prior arrangements have been approved by the instructor or the absence qualifies under University policy.

The instructor reserves the right to determine whether late submissions or make-up work will be accepted and under what conditions. Approval of late or make-up work is not automatic and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Students participating in approved University-sponsored activities or other excused absences recognized by University policy are exempt from late penalties. In these cases, students are responsible for notifying the instructor in advance whenever possible and completing all required work **before departing for the University-related activity**. Online assignments remain due as scheduled, as they are made available well in advance of their due dates and times.

All students are responsible for adhering to applicable University policies regarding attendance, excused absences, and academic responsibilities. When questions arise, the official University Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Catalog, and Student Handbook shall govern.

Grade Breakdown & Grading Scale:

Grade Breakdown

A. Activities & Assignments	150 points
• <i>Weekly/Unit Topic assigned from material from the week/unit</i>	
○ <i>Examples being:</i>	
▪ Minute Papers	
▪ In Class Assignments	
▪ Forum Discussions	
▪ Peer Evaluation	
▪ Individual and Self Evaluation	
▪ Created Presentation and Presentation material	
B. Attendance and Participation	50 points
C. Team Project Review (Midterm Exam)	200 points Total
a. Project Briefing Presentation	75 points
b. Project Team Technical Report	125 points
D. Quizzes	200 points
• 10 Weekly Quizzes	
○ <i>Open Wednesday at 10 am/Due Friday at 5 pm</i>	
○ <i>At least One quiz per unit will be given in person</i>	
E. Semester Project (Final Exam)	400 points Total
a. Team Final Presentation	100 points
b. Individual Project Reflection and Professional Development Statement	150 points
c. Final Team Management Plan	150 points

Total Course: 1000 points

Grading Scale

A >900	B 799-899.99	C 650-798.99	D 595-649.99	F <595
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Required textbook and Course Materials:

Required Text: NONE

Optional Open-Source Free Text:

Rangeland Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Lance B. McNew, David K. Dahlgren, and Jeffrey L. Beck
Editors 2023

ISBN 978-3-031-34036-9

ISBN 978-3-031-34037-6 (eBook)

<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-34037-6>

Open Access Textbook found at: <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-34037-6>

Course Materials:

No textbook purchase is required for this course. Instead, course materials will be drawn from a variety of sources, including scientific publications, wildlife agency resources, Extension materials, and instructor-developed content. This approach allows students to engage with current information and perspectives used by wildlife professionals and researchers.

D2L will serve as the primary location for course materials, readings, assignments, and course announcements. Students should check D2L regularly for updates and supplemental resources. In addition to electronic materials, handouts may be distributed during class to support lectures, discussions, and activities. Physical copies of materials can be provided upon request when available.

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.

<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