

Becoming A Wildlife Professional

Course Number, Section:

Ag 316 01E

Instructor Name: Dr. Charles Hoitt

Class Time:

Tuesday/Thursday 11am- 12:15pm

Class Location:

BA 245

PHONE: (806) 318-8710

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

Email: Charles.hoitt@etamu.edu

Course Description:

This course explores the knowledge, skills, values, and professional competencies required for successful careers in wildlife conservation and management. Students examine the diverse roles and responsibilities of wildlife professionals across public agencies, private industry, non-governmental organizations, research institutions, extension programs, and natural resource enterprises. Through interaction with practicing professionals, analysis of real-world case studies, and guided professional development activities, students gain an understanding of the challenges, opportunities, and expectations associated with wildlife careers.

Emphasis is placed on professional identity development, communication, leadership, ethical decision-making, collaboration, career planning, and lifelong learning. Students will evaluate career pathways within the wildlife profession, assess their own strengths and areas for growth, and develop a personalized plan for achieving their professional goals. The course also addresses emerging issues and future trends influencing wildlife conservation and the natural resources workforce.

By the end of the course, students will be better prepared to engage as emerging wildlife professionals and contribute effectively to the conservation and management of wildlife resources.

Course Learning Outcomes & Methods for Assessing Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

1. Explain the roles, responsibilities, and societal contributions of wildlife professionals across diverse conservation and management settings.

Assessment Methods: Case studies, Reflections, Job Posting reviews

2. Apply professional communication, networking, leadership, and career-planning skills relevant to the wildlife profession.

Assessment Methods: In Class discussions, Assignments and Attendance

3. Evaluate real-world challenges and ethical issues encountered by wildlife professionals and propose informed solutions.

Assessment Methods: Final Project, Case Studies, Field professional assignment

4. Construct a professional development plan that identifies career goals, required competencies, and strategies for continued growth within the wildlife profession.

Assessment Methods: Job posting reviews, Reflections, Career Center assignments, Field professional assignment, Final Project

Instructor Policies:

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.

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>

Grade Breakdown & Grading Scale:

Item	Points
Attendance and Participation	200
Resume/CV and Career Center Feedback Assignment	50
Mock Interview and Feedback Assignment	50
Job Posting Reviews	100 (4x 25 points each)
Case Study Reports	100 (4x 25 points each)
Reflection Assignments	100
Job Fair/Internship Fair Attendance	25
Interview a Professional Assignment	25
My Career Semester Project (Final Exam)	200
Total	850

Grade Scale

A >765 B 679-764.5 C 552.5-678.99 D 476.5-552.49 F <476.5

Required textbooks:

Required Text:

No required text, course material will be delivered via D2L and in-person materials

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**