WFSC 406/636: Wildlife Habitat Management
Syllabus - Fall 2018

Instructors

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**To request an individual meeting with an instructor please send an email requesting an appointment to*
IRNRDistanceED@ag.tamu.edu **(Primary Contact e-mail)**.

Course Description

Students will be introduced to general concepts of wildlife habitat management and conservation biology. Specifically, students will be acquainted with major land use practices on public and private lands, how these practices influence wildlife production, and alterations or manipulations of habitat used to achieve specific wildlife management goals. Ultimately, this information will be used to formulate plans to manage wildlife populations and their habitat.

Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion students shall identify:

1. General concepts of wildlife-habitat relationships as they pertain to wildlife management and conservation biology.
2. Wildlife-habitat measurements useful in the manipulation and management of wildlife populations and their habitats.
3. Wildlife habitat modification techniques useful in the manipulation of succession on the landscape.

Prerequisites

A basic understanding of general ecology and experience with computers are useful. Undergraduates will benefit if they have taken WFSC 201 and WFSC 403.

Course material

All modules, videos, readings, and supplemental material can be found on the course website – http://wildlifehabitat.tamu.edu

All quizzes, discussion topics/forums, and grades can be found on eCampus – http://ecampus.tamu.edu/

Attendance

Being a distance education course, there is **no class room attendance**. It is the student's responsibility to keep up with the weekly modules, readings, discussions, and quizzes. A weekly checklist is available for each topic (see below). Given the self-paced nature of the course, it is possible to get ahead of schedule if needed. Late work and lack of attendance will not be accepted unless provided a university approved excuse (see Student Rule 7 for details: http://student-rules.tamu.edu/). The student is responsible for providing satisfactory evidence to the instructor to substantiate the reason for the absence. The fact that these are university-excused absences does not relieve the student of responsibility for prior notification and

documentation. Failure to notify and/or document properly may result in an unexcused absence. Falsification of documentation is a violation of the Honor Code. If an absence is excused, the instructor will provide the student with an opportunity to make up for missed class time via a satisfactory alternative assignment that contributes to the final grade by a date agreed upon by the student and instructor.

Grading

Weekly Quizzes

- A total of 12 quizzes will be given during the semester. Each quiz will consist of approximately 10 questions (e.g., true or false, multiple choice, matching, etc.) from modules, readings, videos and any other material assigned for that week and account for a maximum of 100 pts each week. Each quiz is comprehensive and could cover any material covered prior to that particular week's quiz. **Quizzes will be made available on Monday mornings and need to be completed before 11:59 p.m. on Sunday night each week**. **Quizzes will be timed**. **Once a quiz has been opened you will have 20 minutes to complete.**

Class Participation

- Class participation is graded in this course. Students are expected to participate in the "Shoot from the Hip" discussions. Weekly discussion topics will be posted to the discussion board within eCampus by Monday morning. Each student is required to post **1 well-thought-out response** (**minimum of 100 words**) to the discussion question **by 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday night** and **at least 2 comments** to responses posted by other students **by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday night** each week. All three posts will account for a maximum of 50 pts each week. **Posts made after the deadlines will not be accepted**.

Grade Distribution Item	**Points**	
	UG	**GR**
Weekly Quizzes (12 quizzes)	1200	1200
Class participation Shoot from the Hip (12 questions)	600	600
Course Project **(graduate students only)**	N/A	600
Total Points	**1,800**	**2,400**
A-F Grading Scale (listed as % of total points) A = >90%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F = < 60%.		

Extra Credit (optional)

- Plant Collection — the student will be responsible for the collection of at least **25 native** plant species (i.e., trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, or forbs) important to wildlife. Digital images will be used in place of actual specimens. Images must be taken by you personally and not taken from the internet or other sources. Images should include a collage of photos showing the species overall as well as close up photos of leafs, flowers, stems, fruit, etc. Information on each plant species includes the common and scientific name, brief description, preferred habitat qualities, and its importance to wildlife. See course website for examples and grading rubric (Maximum of 60 pts.).

Additional Requirements of Graduate Students

Course Project

- Management Plan — the graduate student is responsible for writing a wildlife habitat management plan for a property of their choice. Management plans can serve to guide landowners seeking an agricultural wildlife valuation for their properties (Texas House Bill 1358, Proposition 11), and will follow TPWD *Comprehensive Wildlife Management Planning Guidelines*. Students will be required to develop a management plan addressing **1 landowner objective and at least 1 qualifying management practice**. Typically, official plans have 3 objectives and 3 qualifying practices; however, for the purpose of this assignment, **I want the student to focus on 1 objective and at least 1 qualifying management practice**. The written plan will be graded on application of qualifying practice, content, writing style/clarity, and grammar. Timely guidelines, forms, and other supplemental resources are posted on the Planning tab at: http://wildlifehabitat.tamu.edu/.

Academic Integrity Statement: *"An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do."* Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the TAMU community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System. For additional information please visit: http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy 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 believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, currently located in the Disability Services building at the Student Services at White Creek complex on west campus or call 979-845-1637. For additional information visit http://disability.tamu.edu.

WFSC 636 Fall 2017
Tentative Schedule/Checklist

Wildlife-Habitat Relationships	
Aug 27-Sep 2 – Course Overview	3 hrs
To do checklist: Familiarize yourself with the website *Sep 1 – Last day for adding/dropping courses for the Fall semester*	
Sep 3-9 – Habitat Concepts I	14 hrs
To do checklist: Watch Habitat Concepts modules (Wildlife Management, Habitat, Succession, and Natural Selection) Watch TPWD Wildlife Management Areas and Plant Succession videos Read *Born in the Hands of Hunters, Future Challenges to the Model, A Conservation Timeline, The Habitat Concept and a Plea for Standard Terminology, and Early Successional Habitat* Submit response and comments to Shoot from the Hip discussion question **Weekly Quiz 1** (Due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday 9)	
Sep 10-16 – Habitat Concepts II	12 hrs
To do checklist: Watch Habitat Concepts modules (Diversity, Landscape Ecology, Island Biogeography, and Fragmentation) Read *A Philosophy of Habitat Management for Northern Bobwhites, Biodiversity of Rangelands, and Land Fragmentation* Watch "The Lorax" video Submit response and comments to Shoot from the Hip discussion question **Weekly Quiz 2** (Due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday 16)	
Sep 17-23 – Wildlife Habitat Planning	11 hrs
To do checklist: Watch Wildlife Habitat Planning module Read *Example Management Plan, Red-cockaded Woodpecker Recovery Plan, Endangered Species Management Plan for Fort Hood, Milam County WMP, and Grimes County WMP Small Acreage* Submit response to Shoot from the Hip discussion question **Weekly Quiz 3** (Due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday 23)	
Sep 24-30– GIS/GPS technology	10 hrs
To do checklist: Watch GIS-GPS Overview module Read *GIS Best Practices in Wildlife Management, Flooding-induced Landscape Changes, and Population Variation in Dune-dwelling Lizards* Submit response and comments to Shoot from the Hip discussion question **Weekly Quiz 4** (Due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday 30)	
Measurement of Wildlife-Habitat	
Oct 1-7 – Land measurement (Plane)	11 hrs
To do checklist: Watch Land Measurement modules 1-2 Watch Basic Compass Use video Read *Land Measurement 1 and 2 and Land Measurement and Surveys* Submit response and comments to Shoot from the Hip discussion question	

Weekly Quiz 5 (Due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday 7)	
Oct 8-14– Land measurement (Volume)	10 hrs
To do checklist: Watch Land Measurement modules 3-4 Read *Ponds–Planning, Design, and Construction* Submit response and comments to Shoot from the Hip discussion question **Weekly Quiz 6** (Due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday 14)	
Oct 15-21 – Vegetation Measurement	10 hrs
To do checklist: Watch Vegetation Measurement modules (Vegetation Measurement and Vegetation Sampling: Considerations & Theory and Techniques & Application) Read *Robel Rangepole (Robel 1970) and Use of Rangepole (Smith 2008)* Watch Softball Habitat Evaluation Technique video Submit response and comments to Shoot from the Hip discussion question **Weekly Quiz 7** (Due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday 21)	
Habitat Modification Techniques	
Oct 22-28 – Mechanical Treatments	10 hrs
To do checklist: Watch Mechanical Treatment module (Brush Management Techniques) Read *Brush Management Methods, Sculpting Brush Mechanically, and Light Disking to Improve Wildlife Habitat* Watch Half-cutting Brush Technique video Submit response and comments to Shoot from the Hip discussion question **Weekly Quiz 8** (Due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday 28)	
Oct 29-Nov 4 – Wetland Management	12 hrs
To do checklist: Watch Pond Management modules (Managing Ponds, Bass Management, Fish Population Assessment, Management Tools) Read *Techniques for Wetland Construction and Management and Restoring Americas Wetlands: A Private Lands Conservation Story* Submit response and comments to Shoot from the Hip discussion question **Weekly Quiz 9** (Due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday 4)	
Nov 5-11 – Grazing Management and Harvest Management	11 hrs
To do checklist: Watch Grazing and Harvest Management modules (Harvest Management, Grazing Management: Basics and Considerations) Read *Grazing Systems, Using Livestock to Manage Wildlife Habitat, Is Good Range Management for Livestock Really Good Management for Wildlife, and The Hunter and Conservation* Submit response and comments to Shoot from the Hip discussion question **Weekly Quiz 10** (Due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday 11)	
Nov 12-18 – Prescribed Fire	9 hrs
To do checklist: Watch Prescribed Fire modules (Prescribe Fire and Benefits of Fire) Watch TPWD Prescribed Fire and The Nature Conservancy Prescribed Fire videos Read *Prescribed Burning in Texas and Planning a Prescribed Burn* Submit response and comments to Shoot from the Hip discussion question **Weekly Quiz 11** (Due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday 18)	

Deadline to submit Extra Credit (11:59 p.m. on Sunday Nov. 18th; submit electronically via eCampus course page)	
Nov 19-25 –Thanksgiving Holiday	
To do checklist: Have a happy and safe Thanksgiving	
Nov 26-Dec 2 – Supplemental Water and Herbicide	12 hrs
To do checklist: Watch Supplemental Water and Herbicide modules (Supplemental Water and Herbicide Use) Watch Rainwater Harvesting videos (Overview and Freeman Ranch Example) Read *Harvesting Rainwater for Wildlife, Benefits and Impacts of Wildlife Water Developments, and Managing Yaupon with Fire and Herbicides in the Texas Post Oak Savannah* Submit response and comments to Shoot from the Hip discussion question **Weekly Quiz 12** (Due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday 2rd)	
Graduate Students Only: Course Project (Due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday Nov. 30th)	15 hrs
Dec 3-6 – Redefined Days and Reading Days	
To do checklist: Prepare for any finals you have.	
Dec 7, 10-12 – Finals	
To do checklist: There is no final in this course. Be looking for final grades on eCampus. Goodluck and have a great Christmas Break.	