

CLASS LOCATION AND MEETING TIME:

This course is delivered entirely in an online format; consequently, there will not be any on-campus meetings. Also, there are no formal online meeting requirements for this course, though regular check-ins throughout the week are highly recommended. Deadlines for all assessments are provided in Canvas in several locations (e.g., on the assignment directions, in the announcements, etc.). *Please note that this is a 3-credit class, which means that we cover the same content in 8 weeks as we do in a "normal" 16-week course. This will be a shorter class, but it can be intense in terms of workload. Please be sure to plan your time for this class each week.*

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION:

Dr. Melissa R. Wuellner, Associate Professor

Office: BHS 345

Office hours: My regular office hours are Mondays, 12:00 – 1:00 pm; Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9:00 – 10:00 am; or by appointment. (***Note that these are generally the best times to get in contact with me during the week, but other times may be available to fit with your schedule. If distance students wish to meet during these times or any time, please contact me to set up a Zoom link.*)

Office phone: 308-865-8006

Email: wuellnermr@unk.edu or through Canvas

COURSE WEBSITE: See Canvas course page (<http://canvas.unk.edu>)

****You can also install the Mobile App for Apple or Android.**

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Various approaches to understand humans' attitudes and behaviours toward wildlife, fisheries, and nature. The course is organized around three major sections: psychology, sociology, and economics.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- 1) Describe how psychology, sociology, and economics are used to evaluate and understand behaviours of the public (not just hunters, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts) toward wildlife, fish and nature.
- 2) Describe the Public Trust Doctrine and the North American Model of Wildlife Management and their relevance to society today.
- 3) Articulate your own values toward wildlife, fisheries, and nature within the context of what you have learned in this course.

PREREQUISITES:

There are no formal prerequisites for this course. Please note that it is a cross-listed 400/800 class, so we will have readings and assignments appropriate to these course levels.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHOD:

This course is presented entirely online; therefore, good time management and self-study skills are critical to your success! Extra effort is often required in an online course compared to the classroom-based version because most of the work rests on your shoulders. Half-semester courses are more intense than traditional fall or spring semester courses, as we are fitting 16 weeks of content into 8 weeks. You will be required to read or view the assigned materials (including the lecture videos) each week. Most weeks include *at least* one discussion and some other assessment (assignment, quiz, or exam, etc.). Weekly course updates and

reminders will be provided via the “Announcements” feature in Canvas. Communication with the instructor can be by phone, e-mail, or class wide-discussion boards. You are encouraged to use all three as frequently as needed.

You will be tested on your ability to critically evaluate, reflect on, integrate, and apply course information through written assignments and open-book exams. You are welcomed to work with or share thoughts about your assignments and exams with your classmates, but *you will be required to write and submit your own original material.*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL:

Students are required to complete all textbook or other assigned readings, view all presentations, and contribute to all discussions as scheduled. Assignments and exams must be turned in by the assigned due dates unless granted an extension prior to the deadlines. Students should make the effort to log into the class throughout the week rather than just one or two days, even if it's just a “quick check” of the discussions or announcements.

*****NOTE:*** *This course is dual listed, meaning that graduate students are taking the course alongside undergraduate students and vice versa.* The expectations and outcomes for graduate education as a whole are different than those of undergraduate education, and this course will ask for graduate students to go above and beyond what the undergraduate students in this course do or what you did in a similar undergraduate course that you may have taken before. In short, your graduate education is designed to further develop your critical thinking skills, enhance soft skills such as communication and leadership, and, ultimately, prepare you for your career. In this class, I am going to ask you to do such things as serve as a mentor to undergraduate students, complete additional challenging questions on exams, and demonstrate to the undergraduates in word and deed what graduate education looks like. The differences in assessments between undergraduate and graduate students are highlighted in the grading policy and in the course calendar within this syllabus.

MISSED ASSIGNMENTS/QUIZZES/EXAMS AND MAKE-UP POLICY:

Any and all discussion, assignments, and exams in this class **MUST** be submitted by the designated deadline (see course calendar below) unless you and I have discussed otherwise. If you do not have an approved deadline extension, you will receive a zero on that assignment. Please note that computer emergencies (e.g., hard drive crashed, etc.) are **NOT** considered an excuse. You should always have an alternative means of accessing or submitting electronic information and course work. If you have an emergency (e.g., illness, death in the family, etc.), please contact me no later than 36 hours after the missed deadline to make new arrangements.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

All required readings will be provided on Canvas. There is no single textbook to purchase as I will be drawing from many textbooks, journal articles, and popular readings to illustrate the concepts of this course. If you are interested in purchasing any of the textbooks referenced in class for the future, please let me know and I can provide more information.

For research resources, please be sure to use the UNK Library (<http://library.unk.edu/>) as well as reliable online search engines (e.g., Google Scholar). You may need to access older articles that may or may not be available online. In that case, don't forget that the UNK Library does have the Loper Loan program (<https://unk.illiad.oclc.org/illiad/>) and may be able to provide some resources to you from other university libraries electronically at no cost.

GRADING POLICY: Below is a roughly estimated breakdown of the assignments and points for this course. Please note that these points may be subject to change but that those changes will be communicated with you in a timely fashion. Grades will be entered in Canvas so you should be aware of where you stand throughout the semester.

Grade Item	Undergraduate Students	Graduate Students
Personal Introduction Discussion	25	25
Interest Areas for Group Project	15	15
North American Model Discussion	25	35
Ideas for Next Week (Week 2)	15	25
Phase I of HD Inquiry Project	25	25
Wildlife Values Orientation Discussion	25	35
Nature Deficit Disorder Discussion	35	35
Phase II of HD Inquiry Project	35	35
Exam #1	50	75
Phase III of HD Inquiry Project	10	10
Phase IV Work Plan	10	10
Phase IV Presentation	80	80
Peer Rating of Group Members	25	25
Leadership Demonstration Via Group Project	NA	25
Exam #2	50	75
TOTAL	425	530

Grades in this class will be assigned according to the standard scoring system described below. Only by attaining these percentages can you be assured of receiving a desired grade.

A+	97 – 100%	A	94 – 96 %	A-	90 – 93%
B+	87 – 89%	B	84 – 86%	B-	80 – 83%
C+	77 – 79%	C	74 – 76%	C-	70 – 73%
D+	67 – 69 %	D	60 – 64%	D-	60 – 63%
		F	< 60%		

Please note: If your final grade is within 0.5% of the next highest grade, your grade will be rounded up (e.g., an 89.50% will be considered an "A-"). This is the definitive cutoff for rounding grades. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

PLAGIARISM AND GENERATIVE AI USE POLICY:

Plagiarism is defined as using more than four consecutive words from a source without a citation. You may not use another's words directly without putting them within quotations. It is also plagiarism when either an author's ideas or organization of concepts are used without giving a citation. The Biology Department expects you to use references for assignments given in this course where required, and we expect you to cite your sources. Students caught plagiarizing will receive a failing grade for the assignment and will face additional punishments up to expulsion as outlined by university policy. I invite you to visit the online resource <http://www.plagiarism.org/> to make sure you understand what plagiarism is and how to avoid it.

Please note that the use of large language models and artificial intelligence tools such as, but not limited to ChatGPT, Bard, Copilot, etc. to produce written work for any assignment, exam, or other assessment is prohibited in this course and is in violation of the UNK Academic Integrity Policy described on page 6 of this syllabus. Any use of these tools can be detected, and findings will result in a zero on that assignment or exam in which the tool was used. I need to see that you understand the concepts in this class, not that you can use a tool that may produce inaccurate results. These tools could be useful in improving your

understanding of concepts as you work through readings and assessments each week, but please do not trust the results produced by these tools on face value.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Your instructor may have indicated on their syllabus an attendance policy specific to their class. If so, that is the policy with which you must comply. If no other policy is stated, the University-wide attendance policy will apply.

- Undergraduate Student Attendance Policy:
<https://catalog.unk.edu/undergraduate/academics/academic-regulations/student-attendance-policy-statement/>
- Graduate Student Attendance Policy:
<https://catalog.unk.edu/graduate/academics/academic-regulations/expectations-in-the-classroom/class-attendance/>

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:

Academic honesty is essential to the existence and integrity of an institution of higher education. The responsibility for maintaining that integrity is shared by all members of the academic community. To further serve this end, the University of Nebraska at Kearney has a policy relating to academic integrity.

- Undergraduate Academic Integrity Policy:
<https://catalog.unk.edu/undergraduate/academics/academic-regulations/academic-integrity-policy/>
- Graduate Academic Integrity Policy: <https://catalog.unk.edu/graduate/academics/academic-regulations/expectations-in-the-classroom/academic-integrity-policy/>

FINALS WEEK POLICY:

The final exam will be administered in the time period scheduled during finals week in accordance with University policy ([Final Exam Schedule](#)). More information about UNK's Finals Week Policy, including when it is appropriate to ask for special accommodations to move a course's final exam, can be found here: [Finals Week Policy](#).

MENTAL WELLNESS:

The UNK Counseling Center provides mental health services to support the academic success of students. The Counseling Center provides a full range of short-term professional mental health services.

Getting help is a smart and courageous thing to do. Contact the UNK Counseling Center at 308-865-8248 or visit their website for more information:

https://www.unk.edu/offices/counseling_healthcare/counseling_care/index.php

MILITARY AND VETERANS SERVICES:

Military and Veteran Services assist veterans, service members, and their dependents with education benefits and academic and supporting resources. They serve as a liaison between students and the Veterans Administration and branches of the military. Contact the UNK Military and Veteran Services office at 308-865-8677 or visit their website for more information:

https://www.unk.edu/offices/financial_aid/veterans_services/index.php

REPORTING STUDENT SEXUAL HARASSMENT, SEXUAL VIOLENCE OR SEXUAL ASSAULT:

Reporting allegations of rape, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and stalking enables the University to promptly provide support to the impacted student(s), and to take appropriate action to prevent a recurrence of such sexual misconduct and protect the campus community. Confidentiality will be respected to the greatest degree possible. Any student who believes she or he may be the victim of sexual misconduct is encouraged to report to one or more of the following resources:

Local Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault Advocacy Agency: 308-237-2599
Campus Police (or Security): 308-865-8911
Title IX Coordinator: 308-865-8655

Retaliation against the student making the report, whether by students or University employees, will not be tolerated.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

It is the policy of the University of Nebraska at Kearney to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to students with documented disabilities. To receive accommodation services for a disability, students must be registered with the UNK Disabilities Services for Students (DSS) office, 175 Memorial Student Affairs Building, 308-865-8214 or by email unkdso@unk.edu.

STUDENTS WHO ARE PREGNANT:

It is the policy of the University of Nebraska at Kearney to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to students who are pregnant. To receive accommodation services due to pregnancy, students must contact the Student Health office at 308.865.8218. The following links provide information for students and faculty regarding pregnancy rights. <https://thepregnantscholar.org/title-ix-basics/>
<https://nwlc.org/resource/faq-pregnant-and-parenting-college-graduate-students-rights/>.

UNK POLICY FOR INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE:

At UNK, inclusive excellence is rooted in our values.

- **People matter.** The diversity of our students, faculty and staff is essential to our educational mission. Our backgrounds, identities, and lived experiences enrich our learning community.
- **The learning environment matters.** We are committed to an inclusive and equitable student-centered learning environment. In our classrooms we exchange ideas and opinions with respect for one another.
- **Learning matters.** Preparing students to value critical thinking, mutual respect, and open communication is essential for lifelong learning. We are building a community that protects and fosters intellectual inquiry and embraces diverse perspectives.

The following link provides information for students regarding UNK's commitment to inclusive excellence and procedures for improving classroom experience with inclusion and belonging:

<https://www.unk.edu/about/dei/inclusive-excellence-in-the-classroom.php>.

COURSE CALENDAR: This is a *tentative* course schedule. If changes are made to the schedule, the class will be notified. Check the assignment directions and the “Announcements” page for due dates for discussions, assignments, and exams.

Week	Theme	Videos	Readings to Accompany Lecture	Discussions	Assignments
1 (10/23 – 10/27)	Getting Started	How to Navigate this Course Introduction to HD Inquiry and the Project	Example surveys	Personal Introductions and Chat with your Classmates	Gaging Interest Areas for Group Project
2 (10/28 – 11/3)	Introduction to Human Dimensions	What is HD?	Readings related to the critiques of the North American Model of Wildlife Management and alternative models	Is the NA Model relevant today?	What ideas will you share with your group next week?
3 (11/4 – 11/10)	Psychology, Part I: Emotions, Mental Models, and Wildlife Values Orientations	Introduction to Psychology Emotions, Mental Models, and Wildlife Values Orientations	Two readings on Emotions Three readings on Mental Models Two readings on WVOs	Discussion on Wildlife Values Orientation	Phase I of HD Project: Meeting your Group and Generating an Idea
4 (11/11 – 11/17)	Psychology, Part II: Biophilia and Nature Deficit Disorder	Biophilia and NDD Miranda Anderson TED talk on NDD (optional viewing)	Two readings on Biophilia Three readings on NDD	Nature Deficit Disorder: What might it mean for society?	Phase II of HD Project: First Draft of Questions
5 (11/18 – 11/24)	First Exam	None	None	None	Revision of Phase II Questions

Week	Theme	Videos	Readings to Accompany Lecture	Discussions	Assignments
6 (11/25 – 12/1)	Sociology, Part I: An Introduction	Introduction to Sociology Google Forms Demo	Sociological Considerations in Wildlife Management	None	Upload and Distribute Surveys for Phase III
7 (12/2 – 12/8)	Sociology, Part II: Wildlife Law and Governance	Wildlife Governance: Who decides what? (Part I) Wildlife Governance: Who decides what? (Part II)	Federal Jurisdiction over Wildlife	Public Hearing Discussion	Send reminders for Phase III survey to make sure you receive enough responses Develop Work Plan for Phase IV
8 (12/9 – 12/15)	Economics: Introduction to Economics and Consumptive Use	Introduction to Economics and Traditional Funding Models	Fundamentals of Economic Principles and Wildlife Management Supplemental Materials (4 links)	None	Upload Phase IV presentations to discussion board
9	FINAL EXAM (Due by 11:59 pm on Thursday, December 19)				