

Human Dimensions of Wildlife and Fisheries
BIOL 830P, 3 credits
Fall 2020

Department of Biology
College of Arts and Sciences
University of Nebraska Kearney

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.).

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION:

Dr. Melissa R. Wuellner, Associate Professor

Office: BHS 345

Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays: 1:30 – 2:30 pm; Tuesdays: 2:00 – 3:00 pm

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 but this course is only open to those who are enrolled at UNK as graduate students.

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. You will be required to read or view the assigned materials (including the short lecture videos) each week. Most weeks include at least one discussion. 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 in person. You are encouraged to use all three as frequently as needed.

You will be evaluated on your ability to critically evaluate, reflect on, integrate, and apply course information various assessments, including (but not limited to) written assignments and open-book exams. You are

welcomed to work with or share thoughts about your various assignments with your classmates, but you will be required to write and submit your own original material. Please review the policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty in this syllabus for further information.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

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. 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.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES RELATED TO COVID-19:

The university community is deeply concerned for the well-being of its students, faculty, and staff. Keeping each other as safe as possible will require commitment from each of us; failure to do so will literally place lives in danger. The full policy relating to mitigation of the spread of infectious diseases can be found at <https://www.unk.edu/coronavirus/>. Policies that apply to all courses (online, remote, blended, or face-to-face) include:

- Students shall monitor their health daily. No student shall attend classes in person while sick. Those who have had contact with positive-tested individuals or show COVID-19 related symptoms must have clearance from the Public Health Center prior to returning to face-to-face classes. There will be no penalties for missing classes for COVID-19 related absences. Students will still be responsible for course content through alternative attendance or other options arranged with the instructor.

Additional policies specific to face-to-face instruction include the following:

1. During Phases I and II, all students are required to wear masks that cover the nose and mouth at all times during class and at any time, inside or outside, where physical distancing of at least 6' is not possible. Instructors shall maintain 16' of distance from students while lecturing but may be closer, if masked. Instructors have the authority to direct students who refuse to wear masks to leave the classroom. Students who have medical issues that make masks inadvisable should contact Disability Services for Students at 308.865.8214 to request an exemption.
2. Students shall not arrive for class more than 5 minutes before the scheduled start time for the course. Instructors shall dismiss students promptly at the end time and all shall leave the classroom promptly. Students who have questions should use office hours rather than before/after class times.
3. Instructors and students should clean their desks prior to class. Cleaning materials will be provided.
4. Additional requirements for Phase III, for specialty courses such as labs or performing arts, or for experiential learning are detailed below.
 - a. Because this is an online course, there are no additional requirements for Phase III at this time. If you do come to campus for another class or any other reason, please review the related policies for that course or any additional campus guidelines prior to coming to campus.

Questions regarding COVID-19 should be directed to the Public Health Center unkhealth@unk.edu or 308-865-8254. Questions regarding the COVID-19 academic policy should be directed to Sr. Vice Chancellor Bicak at bicakc@unk.edu. Questions regarding department specific requirements should be directed to the chair of the relevant department. The chair for the Department of Biology is Dr. Julie Shaffer. She may be contacted via email at shafferjj@unk.edu or by phone at 308-865-8661.

WHAT IS HAPPENING AFTER THANKSGIVING?

UNK is encouraging on-campus classes to move remotely following the Thanksgiving break. However, this move does not affect this class because it is already online! We will continue on with our normal schedule as noted in the course calendar.

WHAT HAPPENS IF UNK GOES REMOTE?

It is possible that on-campus classes could move to remote delivery at any time during this semester. However, that move does not affect our class because we are already online. Isn't that great?!? The course schedule will proceed as noted in the syllabus, regardless of whether the UNK campus is open or closed.

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

Any and all assignments, quizzes, or exams in this class **MUST** be submitted or completed by the deadlines provided unless you and I have discussed otherwise. This helps me manage grading and ensure that your assessments are returned back to you as soon as possible. If we have not discussed missing class or an assignment/quiz/exam, you will receive a **zero** on any relevant assessments. **Please note that computer emergencies (e.g., hard drive crashed, internet outage etc.) may not be NOT considered an excuse in some situations. You should always have an alternative means of accessing or submitting electronic information and course work.**

If you are experiencing symptoms that could be COVID or other illnesses, please let me know as soon as possible. We can discuss options for making up missed coursework, or I can provide you options for how you might exit the course without penalty within the confines of university policies. Options may vary depending on the duration and timing of your illness.

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 your local library, the online UNK library, UNK interlibrary loan (Loper Loan – which finds sources at other libraries that UNK does not own), or online search engines (e.g., Google Scholar). Some of the best articles that you may find related to a topic are older and may not be available online. In this case, interlibrary loan or your local library may be your best option. Don't avoid a source just because you can't access it online.

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	Points
Exam #1	100
Final Exam	100
Discussions	100 – 150
Various assignments	250 – 300
Final project/presentation	150
TOTAL	700 – 800

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 ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

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. 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.

In a similar vein, copying another student's work and claiming it as your own is considered a similar form of academic dishonesty. In this class, I do allow students to collaborate with one another, whether on homework or even take-home exams. However, your submissions should reflect your own efforts and not the efforts of a classmate or classmates. Your learning and grade are your own and should be earned by you, even when collaborating with others.

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 Cindy Ference in Student Health, 308-865-8219. The following link provides information for students and faculty regarding pregnancy rights. <http://www.nwlc.org/resource/pregnant-and-parenting-students-rights-faqs-college-and-graduate-students>.

UNK STATEMENT OF DIVERSITY & INCLUSION:

UNK stands in solidarity and unity with our students of color, our LatinX and international students, our LGBTQIA+ students and students from other marginalized groups in opposition to racism and prejudice in any form, wherever it may exist. It is the job of institutions of higher education, indeed their duty, to provide a haven for the safe and meaningful exchange of ideas and to support peaceful disagreement and discussion. In our classes, we strive to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication and mutual respect. UNK does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, disability or political affiliation. Respect for the diversity of our backgrounds and varied life experiences is essential to learning from our similarities as well as our differences. The following link provides resources and other information regarding D&I: <https://www.unk.edu/about/equity-access-diversity.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.

VETERANS' SERVICES:

UNK works diligently to support UNK's military community by providing military and veteran students and families with resources and services to help them succeed. Veterans Services assists with the GI Bill process and acts as a liaison between the student and the Veterans Administration. If you need assistance or would like more information, please contact Lori Weed Skarka at 308-865-8677 or unkveterans@unk.edu.

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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 (Dates)	Theme	Videos	Readings	Discussions	Assignments
1 (8/24 – 8/30)	Getting Started	How to Navigate this Course	None	Personal Introductions and Chat with your Classmates (25 points total; first post due by 8/28; second post due by 8/30)	First Thoughts on Human Dimensions (20 points due by 8/30)
2 (8/31 – 9/6)	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? (35 points total; first post due by 9/2; second post due by 9/4; last post due by 9/6)	None
3 (9/7 – 9/13)	Psychology: Biophilia and Nature Deficit Disorder	Introduction to Psychology, 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? (35 points total; first post due by 9/9; second post due by 9/11; last post due by 9/13)	None
4 (9/14 – 9/20)	Psychology: Emotions, Mental Models, and Wildlife Values Orientations	Introduction to Emotions, Mental Models, and Wildlife Values Orientations	Two readings on Emotions Three readings on Mental Models Two readings on WVOs	None	Emotions, Mental Models, and Wildlife Values Orientations (60 points; due by 9/20)
5 (9/21 – 9/27)	Psychology: The Land Ethic	Introduction to Aldo Leopold and The Land Ethic Green Fire documentary link	Selection from <i>Sand County Almanac</i> (Reading Guide also provided)	None	What is your land ethic? (50 points; due by 9/27)
6 (9/28 – 10/4)	First Exam (100 points; due by 10/4)				

Week (Dates)	Theme	Videos	Readings	Discussions	Assignments
7 (10/5 – 10/11)	Final Project: Phase I	Introduction to HD Inquiry and the Project	Example surveys	Phase I of HD Project: Generating an Idea and Getting Peer Feedback (25 points total; first post due 10/9; second posts due 10/11)	None
8 (10/12 – 10/18)	Final Project: Phase II	Developing Questions	Surveys 101: A Simple Guide to Asking Effective Questions	None	Phase II of HD Project: First Draft of Questions (40 points; due by 10/18)
9 (10/21 – 10/25) <i>(Note: 10/19 and 10/20 are the dates for this year's Fall Break at UNK)</i>	Sociology: An Introduction	Introduction to Sociology	Sociological Considerations in Wildlife Management	None	Begin work on Phase III based on Phase II feedback <i>(nothing due this week)</i>
10 (10/26 – 11/1)	Sociology: Conflict Resolution and Self-Mediation	Conflict Resolution and Self-Mediation	Self-Mediation Section of <i>Managing Differences</i>	Conflict Scenarios (50 points total; first post due 10/30; second post due 11/1)	Phase III of HD Project (50 points; due 11/1)
11 (11/2 – 11/8)	Sociology: Wildlife Law and Governance (Part I)	Wildlife Governance: Who decides what? (Part I)	Federal Jurisdiction over Wildlife	None	Begin preparing Phase IV of HD Project <i>(nothing due this week)</i>
12 (11/9 – 11/15)	Sociology: Wildlife Law and Governance (Part II)	Wildlife Governance: Who decides what? (Part II) SurveyMonkey Demo Video	None	Public Hearing Discussion (25 points; first post due 11/6; second post due 11/8)	Phase IV of HD Project <i>(deploy survey by date listed in instructions)</i>

Week (Dates)	Theme	Videos	Readings	Discussions	Assignments
13 (11/16 – 11/22)	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	Send reminders for Phase IV to make sure you receive enough responses
14 (11/23 – 11/24) <i>(Note: Thanksgiving Break includes 11/25 – 11/28)</i>	Final Project Prep	Presenting Survey Data	None	None	Use these days to begin preparing your presentations for Phase V of the HD project
15 (11/30 – 12/6)	Economics: Non-consumptive Use	Non-use Values of Wildlife	Where will the money come from? Supplemental articles and links	Compare and Contrast: Use and Non-use Economics of your State (35 points total; first post due by 12/4; second post due by 12/6)	Continue to prepare Phase V presentations
16 (12/7 – 12/13)	Final project wrap-up	None	None	Phase V Discussion (80 points; Videos posted by 12/11)	Phase V Peer Review (20 points; due by 12/13)
17	FINAL EXAM (100 points; Due by 12/17)				