

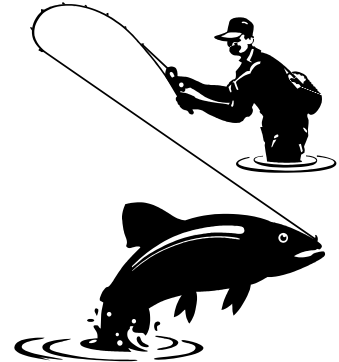
WLSC 110

Introduction to Natural Resources Management

Syllabus

Professor:

Dr. Jennifer K. Frey, College Associate Professor
Office: Knox Hall 115
Phone: (505) 646-3395
Email: Use WebCT email communicator



Course Catalog Description:

Introduction to managing natural resources with an emphasis on historical and current issues affecting the management of fish and wildlife.

Course Overview:

This course will provide a basic introduction to the field of natural resources management. Natural resources include both renewable resources such as soil, forests, water, and wildlife, and nonrenewable resources such as oil, metals and minerals. Current issues dealing with the conservation and management of wildlife will provide most of the examples for illustrating concepts that are generally applicable to the entire field. This course takes an integrated view of the field in that sound natural resource management requires an understanding of the interactions between natural and social processes. Consequently, the course will focus on concepts dealing with natural (e.g., ecology) and social (e.g., economics, politics, and planning) processes. In addition, rather than focusing on traditional subdisciplines in isolation (such as water, soil, forest, fisheries and energy), this course will take a broader, integrated “systems” approach to natural resource management that explores the linkages among different elements of a system.

Who Should Enroll:

This course is geared towards students entering a natural resource field as well as those that are simply interested in the management of Earth’s natural resources. Students from all backgrounds are welcome. There are no prerequisites for the course. The material is at a level suitable for beginning

college students in any field. However, this course is a requirement for students seeking a major in Wildlife Sciences at New Mexico State University.

Course Delivery:

This course is taught completely on the web, primarily through the program WebCT. Go to http://distance.nmsu.edu/webct_tutorials/index.html for a WebCT tutorial. There are no required classroom meeting times (with the exception that you will be given a limited time frame to complete quizzes and exams). Consequently, students will have the freedom to perform course work on their own schedules as long as weekly deadlines are met. However, this does not mean that students will spend less time on coursework for this class. In fact, because there are no regular meeting times, students must be more proactive in learning and comprehending the assigned material. Plan to be very involved with this class. There will be weekly lectures, readings, quizzes, class discussions, and other assignments. Each assignment will have a deadline and will be evaluated towards your final grade. The time you spend in class will be monitored and will count towards your final grade. The instructor and graduate teaching assistant will facilitate the course work and discussions.

Requirements:



- **Computer** with the following system requirements. Most modern machines, *except Macs*, will meet these requirements.
 - Operating System: Windows 95, 98, ME, NT (SP5+), 2000 Pro, or XP Pro
 - CPU Speed: 133 MHz
 - Data Storage 40 MB free disk space
 - RAM 32 MB
 - Sound Card: 16-bit
 - Monitor: 800x600 resolution, 256+ colors
- **Speakers or Headset** attached to computer.
- **Internet Access.** For free internet service available through NMSU. please contact the ICT Help Desk at (505) 646-1840
 - 28.8 Kpbs preferred (although less will work)
 - Netscape 4.08 (except Netscape 6.x) or Internet Explorer 4.01+ with Java and JavaScript enabled
- **Adobe Reader.** Go to <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html> for free download.
- **A media player.** Microsoft Windows Media Player is one you can download free at <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/player/download/download.aspx>

- **NMSU Username and NMSU Password.** Go to <https://my.nmsu.edu/cp/home/displaylogin> for obtaining your username and password.
- **Textbook:** Moulton, M.P. and J. Sanderson. 1999. Wildlife issues in a changing world. Lewis Publishers, Boca Raton, Florida, 500 pp. The textbook can be ordered on-line from the main campus bookstore at <http://www.nmsubookstore.com/nmsu/>. Use info for “section 70”.
- **Digital Photograph** of yourself. If you do not have a digital image, you can mail a regular photograph to us and we will scan it for you.

Students must be able to access the web, search the web and send and receive emails with attachments. Students must have internet access to be able to enter the web course. Computer, phone, hardware, software and related failures will not be accepted as an excuse for any missed assignment. Consequently, it is the student's responsibility to insure continual access to appropriate computer equipment and the internet. You are encouraged to make arrangements for access to an alternative computer and internet access in the event your primary system fails. Branch campuses, libraries and other facilities usually have free access to computers and the internet

Late Homework and Makeup Exams:

Under normal circumstances, assignments cannot be turned in late and no make-up exams will be given. You will be given a specific time-frame to complete quizzes. If you fail to complete a quiz within the time-frame you will receive a score of zero. If you are unable to complete an assignment on time or will miss an exam time, you must e-mail Dr. Frey *in advance* and explain the circumstances and desired extension. If, in Dr. Frey's judgment, the circumstances are unavoidable and the extension is reasonable, you will be granted the extension although you may be required to provide suitable documentation of the circumstances. If an emergency occurs (such as a medical emergency) and you are unable to turn in an assignment on time, provide Dr. Frey of proof of your circumstances as soon as possible. If, in Dr. Frey's judgment, the circumstances were an unavoidable emergency, you will be allowed to turn in the work late. Dr. Frey reserves the right to require documentation of the circumstances. Conflicts with homework in other classes, simply failing to complete an assignment on time, and oversleeping, are *not* acceptable reasons for late work.

Assignments:

Weekly assignments are given the first day of each week. Check the WebCT Table of Contents to find out the week's assignments. All assignments are due by 11:55 pm on the designated day. No late work will be accepted; there are **no make-ups!** The various types of assignments and their normal due dates are indicated below:

- **Readings**—Weekly reading assignments are from the text or other sources. Reading assignments are due the following Monday.
- **Readings Quizzes**—A 10 point quiz will test your comprehension of the reading material. You will have 10 minutes to complete the quiz and it must be taken by Wednesday of the same week.
- **Readings Discussions**—Following the quiz, the class will engage in a discussion dealing with the assigned reading material. Directions for each discussion are provided in Table of Contents. Make sure you click on the link to read the directions for the weekly discussion. You can not participate in the Discussion until you have taken the quiz. Each student must offer at least three unique questions or comments as contribution to the discussion. Students may not duplicate the questions or comments offered by others. You will be evaluated based on your participation in these discussions including 1) the thoughtfulness of your questions or comments, 2) your overall participation (as measured by the number and length of your responses), and use of English. WebCT does not have a spelling/grammar checker. You are advised to compose your discussion in a word processor such as Word and then cut/paste into WebCT. Discussions are due the following Monday and are worth 20 points each.
- **Lectures**—A lecture unit will be given about every other week over the internet. The lecture schedule is listed in the Table of Contents. Longer lectures may be broken into subsections. The lecture will consist of slides that you view and a soundtrack that you will listen to as you view the slides. If you desire, the slides can be downloaded or printed and the soundtrack can be saved to an MP3 player (e.g., iPod) for listening away from your computer.
- **Lecture Exam**—Following each complete lecture (which includes all subsections for that lecture) you will be given an exam over the material. The lecture exams are usually around 20 to 30 points each. Lecture exams must be completed by the following Monday.
- **Other Assignments**—Relevant miscellaneous assignments will be required periodically.

HINT: Get your assignments done early! This helps to avoid last minute problems that prevent you from turning your work in on time. Also, your Teaching Assistant and Professor usually are not available for questions over the weekends. If you wait to do your work until the weekends, you may not be able to ask questions.

Grading:

Final grades will be based on the following scale:

- A 90 - 100 %
- B 80 - 89 %
- C 70 - 79 %
- D 60 - 69 %
- F 0 - 59 %.



If you are near the borderline between two grades (generally within 1.5 percentage points), your level of participation in the class will be used to determine if you receive the higher or lower grade.

Progress in Class:

You can use special tools in your WebCT classroom to assess your progress in class. On the main homepage, click on "Student Tools". In the Student Tools page, click on "My Grades" to see all of your grades. You can also check to see how many times you have accessed various parts of the classroom. Do this by clicking on "My Course Access Progress".

When You Need Help:

You have to recognize when you need help. Please do not delay in asking for help and don't be shy. Your professor and teaching assistant are here to help you. They want you to succeed in this class! Here are the two best ways to get help:

1) Email. Email the Teaching Assistant or Professor through the WebCT email communicator. Make sure you send your emails through the WebCT classroom. Under normal circumstances, email sent through regular email will not be accepted. This helps to insure that your emails will not become lost and will be answered as quickly as possible. Generally, both the Teaching Assistant and Professor will check their class email at least once per day (but usually more!).

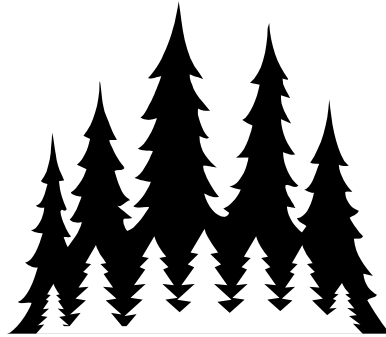
2) Office Hours. The Teaching Assistant and Professor have regular office hours when they are available to talk to you via phone (or in person if you can come to campus). Office hour times are posted on the class homepage.

Students with Disabilities:

If you have (or believe you have) a disability and would benefit from classroom accommodation(s), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Office located at Garcia Annex on the NMSU campus (Phone 505-646-6840; TTY 505-646-1918). If you have a condition that may affect your ability to exit safely from the premises in an emergency or that may cause an emergency during class, you are encouraged to discuss any concerns with the Instructor.

Student Responsibilities:

- 1) Register with SSD and obtain accommodation documents early in the semester.
- 2) Deliver the completed accommodation and testing forms to the instructor within the first two weeks of beginning of classes (or within one week of the date services are to commence)
- 3) Retrieve the signed forms from faculty and return to SSD within five days of receipt from faculty and at least one week before any scheduled exam, and,
- 4) Contact the SSD Office if the services/accommodations requested are not being provided not meeting your needs or if additional accommodations are needed. Do not wait until you receive a failing grade. Retroactive accommodations cannot be considered.



Course Content

Lecture Units

- Introduction to Natural Resources Management
- Key Philosophies and Concepts
- History of Management Approaches
- The Scientific Method and Adaptive Management
- Soil Resources
- Forest Resources
- Rangeland Resources

Reading and Discussion Units

- Evaluating Information on the Internet
- The Scientific Method
- Contemporary Wildlife Issues
- Extinction
- Overexploitation
- Habitat Fragmentation and Destruction
- Introduced Species
- Chains of Extinctions
- Harvesting Wildlife
- Examples from the Eastern USA
- Examples from the Western USA
- Global Perspectives
- In Depth on Gorillas
- Managing Wildlife
- Novel Solutions

