

**Dept. Natural Resource Management at Sul Ross State University  
NRM 4301 – Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management  
Syllabus – Spring 2021**

**Instructor:**

Dr. Patricia Moody Harveson

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Office hours: Monday-Friday 8am-5pm. Since this is an online class, communication will be through email or phone. If you would like to meet in person or on zoom, please call or email me to schedule an appointment.

**Course Description:**

Theory and applications for considering human dimensions in an integrated approach to wildlife conservation and management. Course emphases will include human values, the role of constituency groups, natural resource policy development, conflict resolution, group decision-making, research methods, and case studies.

**Course Objectives:**

Students will learn the art and science of human dimensions research as it applies to the field of natural resource management. Specifically, upon course completion students shall understand:

- Current trends in public opinion affecting natural resource management.
- Current human dimension issues in the field of conservation.
- Strategies and techniques for effectively communicating with people.

**Textbooks:**

*NOTE: Both books are available as free ebooks from the SRSU library website. However, access is not always available, so you may want to purchase them so you have your own copy.*

1. Manfredo, M. J., Vaske, J. J., Brown, P. J., Decker, D. J., & Duke, E. A. 2009. *Wildlife and society: The science of human dimensions*. Washington, DC: Island Press. 350 pp. (**Required**)
2. Bonar, S. A. 2007. *The conservation professional's guide to working with people*. Island Press. 224 pp. (**Recommended**. We will not review this book in class but it is a good reference for you to have).

**Grading:**

Summaries – Wildlife & Society (4 @ 100 pts each)	400
Case Study StoryMap	300
Case Study Reports	150
Case Study Discussions/Participation	150
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Total Points	1,000

**Scale:** 90-100% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; <60% = F

**Assignments and Due Dates:**

The course is structured into weekly time periods that begin on Monday and end on Sunday. All assignments are due by Sunday at midnight unless otherwise specified. No points will be given for late assignments except under extraordinary circumstances. Students should contact the instructor to request an exception for late work. See the class schedule (posted in Blackboard) for the dates and assignments for each week.

**Wildlife and Society Readings and Summaries:**

During the first half of the semester, weekly readings will be assigned from the textbook "Wildlife and Society". Please be sure to keep up with the readings. Students will also write and submit 4 summaries of the assigned readings.

**Case Studies:**

Students will research a human dimensions topic and create a case study that will be reviewed and discussed in class. Case studies will focus on a human dimensions issue in natural resource management. With assistance from the instructor, students will choose a journal article to use as a case study. Students will create the case study using ArcGIS StoryMaps during the first half of the class. More information will be provided about the case study assignment in Blackboard.

**Case Study Reports:**

During the second half of the class, students will review case studies (StoryMaps and journal articles) and answer a set of report questions based on these readings.

**Case Study Discussions:**

During the second half of the class, students will participate in Blackboard Discussion Boards and/or Virtual Discussions for each case study. Discussions will be facilitated by the case study author(s).

*For BB Discussion Boards:* Each student should participate in the forum (board) and each posting will be graded based upon the relevance, depth of knowledge, and unique contribution that it made to the discussion. For each discussion board, you will need to make your own original post (by Thursday), as well as comment on posts by other students or instructors (by Sunday). You must make these postings during the week in which it was scheduled. Please make your first initial post (original post) addressing the forum questions by Thursday of the week it is scheduled. You then have until Sunday to respond to other posts. I suggest you reply to >2 other student posts to facilitate discussion and receive maximum credit. You will not receive credit for late postings.

*For Virtual Discussions:* Blackboard Collaborate or Zoom will be used to hold synchronous virtual discussions on our case studies. Dates and times will be selected based on student availability so we can discuss case studies together.

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Academic dishonesty includes copying, sharing, or obtaining information from an unauthorized source, attempting to take credit for the intellectual work of another person, falsifying information, and giving or receiving information about a test, quiz, or assignment to another student. Copying information verbatim from a book, another paper, or the internet is also plagiarism, instead you must paraphrase or state the information in your own words. Any student involved in academic dishonesty will receive no credit (0) for work done and/or may be penalized in accordance with published university rules. Multiple offenses will result in the expulsion from the class with the grade of F.

**ADA Statement:**

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. Students with qualifying disabilities who seek accommodations must initiate a request for a meeting for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Rebecca Greathouse Wren, M.Ed., LPC-S, Counseling & Accessibility Services, Telephone: 432-837-8203, or E-mail: [rebecca.wren@sulross.edu](mailto:rebecca.wren@sulross.edu).

For more information see: <https://www.sulross.edu/page/1384/accessibility-services>

**Distance Education Non-Participation Statement:**

Policies in effect for on-campus, traditional classroom instruction courses also apply to students enrolled in distance education courses, including Web-based and ITV courses. The University allows a maximum of 20% absences in a course before an instructor may drop a student for excessive absences. In Web courses, this policy is interpreted as not participating for more than 3 weeks in a long semester, 1 week in a summer session, or 3 days in the midwinter session. Any student dropped for non-participation will receive an "F" in the course dropped. Inactivity may include the following:

- Not logging on to the course
- Not submitting assignments
- Not participating in scheduled activities
- Not communicating with the instructor by phone or email, and/or
- Not following the instructor's participation guidelines stated in the syllabus.

**Distance Education Statement:**

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments through Blackboard, which require secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

**Additional Outcome Objectives as Required by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools:**

*Student Learning Outcomes for the M.S. in Range and Wildlife Management*

1. Students will be able to apply statistical concepts and procedures to research.
2. Students will be able to evaluate literature and references to substantiate the applied research project.
3. Students will be able to justify and defend research questions and design.

*Student Learning Outcomes for the M.Ag. in Natural Resource Conservation.*

1. Students will be able to apply statistical concepts and procedures to natural resource data.
2. Students will be able to evaluate literature and references as they apply to the natural resource field
3. Students will be able to demonstrate their knowledge of the fundamentals and advanced concepts of range and wildlife management.

**Course Schedule: (see Blackboard for more detail and possible schedule changes)**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Beginning Date</b>	<b>Ending Date</b>	<b>Readings &amp; Case Studies</b>
<b>1</b>	11-Jan	17-Jan	Wildlife & Society: Part 1: Chapters 1-2
<b>2</b>	18-Jan	24-Jan	Wildlife & Society: Part 1: Chapters 3-5
<b>3</b>	25-Jan	31-Jan	Wildlife & Society: Part 2: Chapters 6-7
<b>4</b>	1-Feb	7-Feb	Wildlife & Society: Part 2: Chapters 8-10
<b>5</b>	8-Feb	14-Feb	Wildlife & Society: Part 3: Chapters 11-12
<b>6</b>	15-Feb	21-Feb	Wildlife & Society: Part 3: Chapters 13-14
<b>7</b>	22-Feb	28-Feb	Wildlife & Society: Part 4: Chapters 15-18
<b>8</b>	1-Mar	7-Mar	Wildlife & Society: Part 4: Chapter 19-23
<b>9</b>	8-Mar	14-Mar	Spring Break
<b>10</b>	15-Mar	21-Mar	Case Studies (TBD)
<b>11</b>	22-Mar	28-Mar	Case Studies (TBD)
<b>12</b>	29-Mar	4-Apr	Case Studies (TBD)
<b>13</b>	5-Apr	11-Apr	Case Studies (TBD)
<b>14</b>	12-Apr	18-Apr	Case Studies (TBD)
<b>15</b>	19-Apr	25-Apr	Case Studies (TBD)
<b>16</b>	26-Apr	2-May	Case Studies (TBD)

TBD = To Be Determined