

NRES 315: Human Dimensions of Fish and Wildlife Management

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
8:00 – 8:50
3 credits
Hardin Hall, Rm 107
Syllabus and Course Description

	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Teaching Assistant</u>
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Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic concepts and ideas relevant in human dimensions of natural resource management. As a natural resource manager, a substantial portion of effort is spent working with people, which means that being successful requires an understanding of how people value, experience, use, care for, interact with, and are sustained by the natural environment. Human dimensions cover a broad set of ideas and practices, and seek to integrate them into planning, decision making and actions regarding natural resource management. The study of human dimensions includes social, cultural and economic values, in addition to, the attitudes and behaviors of individuals and groups of various stakeholders in natural resource management.

This course focuses on three areas of human dimensions: (1) the foundation of human dimensions; (2) the methodological approaches in human dimensions research including survey design and analysis; and (3) applications of human dimensions research into consumptive and non-consumptive aspects of fish and wildlife management, with attention to how the field continues to develop.

Course Objectives:

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

1. Demonstrate a working knowledge of the basic components of human dimensions as it pertains to fish and wildlife management.
2. Use appropriate techniques to develop, conduct, and analyze human dimension surveys.
3. Illustrate the complexities of multiple use, multiple constituency input, and multiple sociological/anthropological bases.
4. Describe the management actions available to managers to solve specific management problems and evaluate the pros and cons of different actions.
5. Understand the “current issues and trends” in human dimensions and describe ways in which these will affect you as a resource manager in the future.

This course will:

1. Provide a forum for discussion of the ways human dimensions has and will inform fisheries and wildlife management.
2. Enable students to develop approaches to evaluate and solve human dimensions issues in fisheries and wildlife management.
3. Provide each student a suite of skills that will can be applied in their careers in fish and wildlife management.

Textbook and Other Reading Materials:

- DJ Decker, SJ Riley, and WF Siemer, editors. Human Dimensions of Wildlife Management, 2nd edition. John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland
- Select readings will be available on Canvas

You will be responsible to read the chapter before you watch the lecture.

Expectations:

Course Structure, Attendance, and Participation

The course will consist of a mix of recorded lectures and a weekly discussion period. All lectures this semester will be pre-recorded and available for you to watch during the week. You will need to progress through the materials in sequential order and Canvas will prevent you from advancing until you have completed the previous material (lecture videos, assignments). The best way to navigate through these will be to click on the **MODULES** tab in Canvas.

Each week, you will be required to attend (in person or via Zoom) your discussion section. You have been randomly assigned to a group and a day of the week that you will need to attend. Your partners and group number are available on Canvas under the **PEOPLE > Group Project** tab. You are not allowed to switch groups or attend other discussion sections.

- Groups 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 will meet on Mondays
- Groups 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 will meet on Wednesdays
- Groups 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 will meet on Fridays

During discussion sections, you will work on assignments tied to your group project. These discussion sections will begin meeting the week of August 24th.

Face masks

You are required to wear a face mask when in Hardin Hall and during our class. If you need further information about UNL's face mask policies please visit: <https://covid19.unl.edu/face-covering-policy>.

Communication

You are responsible for keeping up to date with information on this class. This means that you will need to monitor your emails and checking in on the NRES 315 Canvas site. If you need to get in touch with me, please do so via email using your university email (@huskers.unl.edu).

Please ask questions whenever you do not understand something or if I am not being clear. There is no such thing as a bad question and chances are that someone else was wondering the same thing. You can email questions, drop by the weekly zoom office hours, or ask a question in Yellowdig.

Grading:

I will not grade assignments on a curve. Your grade will be determined using a standard grading scale:

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

Plus/minus grades will not be used. The above percentages may be adjusted downward; however, only by attaining these percentages can you be assured of receiving a desired grade.

Note: I will round up final grades to the nearest whole number. Therefore, a final score of 89.5 will earn you a final grade of A, but a score of 89.4 will not. Although this can be very frustrating if one happens to receive a grade just below the cut off, I must draw the line somewhere.

If, for whatever reason, you are required to maintain a certain grade-level and it seems that you are unlikely to receive the necessary grade in my class please speak with me immediately. I will not bump up your grade, under any circumstances, but I will be able to give feedback on written work and suggestions on how to improve your class performance. With hard work, if it is still early enough in the semester, you may be able to improve your grade to the necessary extent. Do not wait until receiving your final grade at the end of the semester. Grades are final.

Assignments and Preliminary Due Dates

There will not be a final exam for this class. Rather, your grade will be determined through your performance on 1) weekly quizzes, 2) assignments, 3) discussions, and 4) your group project.

- Weekly quizzes (250 total points; 25% of final grade)
 - Each week you will take an online quiz through Canvas. Quizzes will be multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer.
- Short Assignments (250 total points; 25% of final grade)
 - We will have a number of assignments during the course of the class. Although there will be some variation, on average, you can expect there to be an assignment every week.
 - Reactions: Podcasts are an excellent medium to hear others discuss materials that relate to human dimensions. For example, the US Fish and Wildlife service has a Human Dimension group that routinely provides webinars from guest speakers (<https://my.usgs.gov/hd/hd-training-resources#RecordedBroadcasts>). Over the course of the semester you will watch/listen to a podcast that I provide and write a one-page (500 word) reaction to the podcast. The reaction should summarize the podcast and make “direct” connections to material. There will be a minimum of 4 of these reactions during the semester.
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- Yellowdig discussions (200 points; 20% of final grade)
 - Please visit the NRES 315 Canvas page to see how canvas points will be accumulated.
 - During the recorded lectures, I will ask a series of questions that you should log on to Yellowdig and add your thoughts to the discussion.
 - Reactions: Podcasts are an excellent medium to hear others discuss materials that relate to human dimensions. For example, the US Fish and Wildlife service has a Human Dimension group that routinely provides webinars from guest speakers

(<https://my.usgs.gov/hd/hd-training-resources#RecordedBroadcasts>). Over the course of the semester you will watch/listen to podcasts and react to the podcast in a discussion framework.

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- Group Project (400 total points; 30% of final grade)
 - A lot of natural resource related problems require working in groups, often times with individuals from different disciplines. Collaborative skill to work in a team comes only with practice. As described below, you will work on a group projects over the course of the semester. Grades for the group projects will be a combination of instructor and peer assessment.
 - **Part 1a (25 pts):** Groups will identify a topic interest concerning human dimensions of natural resources (fisheries, wildlife, forestry, etc).
 - **Parts 1b (100 pts)** Students will develop a fifteen-minute presentation that will lay out the scope of the problem, what information is already known about the issue, and the procedures they are going to study the topic (type of survey, types of questions, sampling frame)
 - **Part 2a (100 pts):** Groups will develop a cover letter (or invitation) and survey instrument to assess the issue described in **Part 1**.
 - **Part 2b (100 pts):** Each group will peer-review (and provide edits and comments) for another randomly assigned group.
 - **Part 3 (100 pts):** Groups will develop another 15-min presentation to present the results and implications of the survey.

Commented [CCI]: Katherine, thoughts on how to change this!

CLASS POLICIES

Class materials: I invite all of you to join me in actively creating and contributing to a positive, productive, and respectful classroom culture. Each student contributes to an environment that shapes the learning process. Any work and/or communication that you are privy to as a member of this course should be treated as the intellectual property of the speaker/creator, and is not to be shared outside the context of this course.

Students may not make or distribute screen captures, audio/video recordings of, or livestream, any class-related activity, including lectures and presentations, without express prior written consent from me or an approved accommodation from Services for Students with Disabilities. If you have (or think you may have) a disability such that you need to record or tape class-related activities, you should contact Services for Students with Disabilities. If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. Failure to follow this policy on recording or distributing class-related activities may subject you to discipline under the Student Code of Conduct.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to adhere to guidelines concerning academic dishonesty outlined in Section 4.2 of University's Student Code of Conduct (<http://stuaafs.unl.edu/dos/code>). Students are encouraged to contact the instructor for clarification of these guidelines if they have questions or concerns. The SNR policy on Academic Dishonesty is available at <http://snr.unl.edu/employeeinfo/information/employeehandbook.asp>

Students with Disabilities. The School, College, and University endorse PL 101-336, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Any student who, because of a disability, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to request necessary accommodations. Students should present appropriate verification from the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). No requirement exists that accommodations be made prior to completion of this approved University process.

Emergency Response

- **Fire Alarm** (or other evacuation): In the event of a fire alarm: Gather belongings (Purse, keys, cellphone, N-Card, etc.) and use the nearest exit to leave the building. Do not use the elevators. After exiting notify emergency personnel of the location of persons unable to exit the building. Do not return to building unless told to do so by emergency personnel.
- **Tornado Warning:** When sirens sound, move to the lowest interior area of building or designated shelter. Stay away from windows and stay near an inside wall when possible.
- **Active Shooter**
 - **Evacuate:** if there is a safe escape path, leave belongings behind, keep hands visible and follow police officer instructions.
 - **Hide out:** If evacuation is impossible secure yourself in your space by turning out lights, closing blinds and barricading doors if possible.
 - **Take action:** As a last resort, and only when your life is in imminent danger, attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active shooter.
- **UNL Alert:** Notifications about serious incidents on campus are sent via text message, email, unl.edu website, and social media. For more information go to: <http://unlalert.unl.edu>.
- Additional Emergency Procedures can be found here: http://emergency.unl.edu/doc/Emergency_Procedures_Quicklist.pdf