FOREST WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

FOR 4350 & 4050L
Fall 2023

Lecture Meetings: MW 11:00-11:50 in FOR 221
Lab Meetings: Th 2:00–4:50 pm in FOR 205
Instructor: Jessica Glasscock
Office: 201B
Phone: 936-468-5984
Email: Jessica.glasscock@sfasu.edu
Office Hours: T 08:00-10:00AM; W 3:00-5:00PM; or by appointment. Format of office hours maybe be in-person or via zoom and will be decided by the instructor.

Course Description: Three semester hours, two hours lecture and three hours lab per week. Theory and practice of evaluating and managing a forest habitat for wildlife. Required field trips. Prerequisites FOR 152, FOR 219, FOR 255, FOR 347. Course fee required. Fall Only.

This course provides a review of current principles and practices related to the management of vegetative communities of eastern Texas and adjacent states for game and nongame wildlife species. It focuses on applied habitat management at the stand and landscape levels through the use of various techniques, including silvicultural practices, habitat modification, wildlife enhancement techniques, and population management.

Program Learning Outcomes (This is not a general education course): FOR 450 is part of the Forest Wildlife Management curriculum and is required for all students pursuing that major.

The following course learning outcomes (PLO’s) have been approved for the Bachelor of Science in Forestry (BSF) degree program:
1. Demonstrate understanding and competency of forest ecology and biology (PLO1);
2. Demonstrate understanding and competency in the measurement of forest resources (PLO2);
3. Demonstrate understanding and competency in managing forest resources (PLO3);
4. Demonstrate understanding and competency of forest resource policy, economics, and administration (PLO4);
5. Demonstrate understanding and competency in oral and written communication skills (PLO5).

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of the course, students should:
1. Demonstrate understanding of how habitat variables affect species distribution and abundance in forested and grassland systems (M, PLOs #1 and 2).
2. Demonstrate basic vegetation management practices and be able to apply them to manage habitat for a variety of species (M, PLOs #1 and 3).
3. Demonstrate familiarity with basic practices and principles involved in managing for several important species and species groups in forested systems (M, PLO #3).
4. Demonstrate ability to recognize approximately 150 plant species important to wildlife in forested systems and be familiar with the means of promoting their abundance (M, PLOs #1 and 3).
5. Demonstrate ability to synthesize management practices in a logical manner to formulate a management plan and communicate that plan to peers (M, PLO #5).

Texts: We will use one required text for this class.
This book provides basic identification through color photographs and a nice summary of important information about many forbs, grasses, shrubs, and vines in southeastern forest habitats. It is a good reference book to have for the future.

Course Requirements: Performance in the class will be evaluated based on a combination of lecture exams, laboratory exams, a plant collection, class discussions, and assignments according to the following formula:

Exams:
- Lecture Mid-Terms (2 @ 100 pts) 200
- Lab Practical (2 @ 100 pts) 200
- Final Exam 100

Assignments:
- Lecture
- Reading Assignments (6 @ 15 pts) 90
- Lab
- Vegetation Measurements (2 @ 15 pts) 30
- Vegetation Measurements Group Assign. 25
- Browse Survey: 15
- Participation: 50

Plant Collection:
- Collection and reports 100

Total points 810

Course grades will be given according to the following formula: 90-100=A, 80-89=B, 70-79=C, 60-69=D, 0-59=F.

Lecture Exams: There will be 3 lecture exams during the course of the semester, including 2 mid-terms and a final. Lecture exams will cover any materials discussed in class and materials from all assigned readings. Although plant ID will not be a part of lecture exams, questions about particular species (e.g., wildlife use, methods to promote, etc.) we covered in lab periods may be asked. The final will not be comprehensive.

Laboratory Exams: There will be two laboratory practical exams during the semester that will involve the identification of plant species from mounted specimens, photographs, or parts (e.g., fruiting structures) and answering questions related to field discussions. Both common
and scientific names will be required for all plants covered in lab. In addition to identification, the lab exam will include questions about favored habitat conditions, wildlife use, and management of plant species. I will provide a list of plants covered before the exam, as well as a master list of scientific names.

Exam Make-up Policy: Make up exams will be given only in the case of a documented, university-approved excuse. In this case, the make-up exam will be given as soon as possible after the scheduled exam date. I do not give make-up exams for unexcused absences.

Writing Assignments: There will be several lecture writing assignments and written lab reports that will come up as the semester goes along. The details will be provided in handouts at the time I assign each paper. Grades on all writing assignments will include writing and spelling as well as technical content.

Plant Collection: Each student in the class will be required to complete a collection of plants that are important to wildlife. Plant collections must include a minimum of 60 species (80 for grad students). A brief report describing its range, habitat, and wildlife use must accompany each specimen. Additional details will be provided in a handout distributed during the first lab period.

General Topic Outline
The following is a tentative outline of topics that I intend to cover over the course of the semester. Copies of the class lectures will also be available on D2L. This is for your information purposes and I reserve the right to change, add, or move topics at my discretion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syllabus and Introduction</td>
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<td>Concepts of Wildlife-Habitat Relationships</td>
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<td>Introduction and Defining Habitat</td>
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<td>Habitat Selection Theories</td>
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<td>Habitat Loss, Fragmentation, and Degradation</td>
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<td>Forest Habitat Characteristics</td>
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<td>Grassland Habitat Characteristics</td>
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<td>Wetland Habitat Characteristics</td>
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<td>Moist Soil Management – T. Anderson</td>
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<td>Mitigation – T. Anderson</td>
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<td>Vegetation Manipulation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Species Specific Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
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<td>Woodcock</td>
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White-tailed deer
Bobwhite
Current SFA Studies

**Labs and Field Trips:**
Wildlife management is a topic that must be learned by observation and activity in the field; therefore, numerous field trips will be required for this course. Please dress appropriately, including long pants, boots, and hard hats. It is likely that some weekly labs will run long because we are traveling some distance to the target site. These are marked with a * above. The list below is a tentative list of lab activities; however, this is subject to change as the semester moves along.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lab Schedule</th>
<th>Lab Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 (8/31)</td>
<td>Intro. To Lab Procedure/Plant Collection Guidelines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2 (9/7)</td>
<td>Vegetation ID Grasses</td>
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<td>Week 3 (9/14)</td>
<td>Vegetation ID Forbs</td>
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<td>Week 4 (9/21)</td>
<td>Browse Survey – Site Visit – Cherokee Ridge</td>
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<td>Week 5 (9/28)</td>
<td>Waterfowl Mgmt. – Site Visit – Cherokee Ridge</td>
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<td>Week 7 (10/5)</td>
<td>10/6 East Texas Wildlife Expo</td>
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<td>Week 8 (10/12)</td>
<td>Lab Exam</td>
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<td>Week 9 (10/19)</td>
<td>Food Plot Establishment – Site Visit – Glasscock Lease</td>
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<td>Week 10 (10/26)</td>
<td>Vegetation ID and Measurement - Group Assignment</td>
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<td>Week 11 (11/2)</td>
<td>Vegetation ID and Measurement - Group Assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12 (11/9)</td>
<td>TWS National Meeting</td>
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<td>Week 13 (11/16)</td>
<td>Plant Collection Due</td>
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<td>Week 12 (11/23)</td>
<td>No Lab (Thanksgiving)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13 (11/30)</td>
<td>Lab Exam</td>
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Some labs may have a brief writing assignment associated with them. Further details will be provided at the time of the lab. *Missed labs will result in the loss of 20 points from your final grade.*

**Other policies:**

*Attendance:* I expect students to attend all lectures and labs; however, the responsibility to attend class ultimately rests with you, the students. As junior and senior wildlife majors, you should recognize the value of class attendance and have the responsibility to get yourself there. That said, I guarantee that missing class will hurt your grades on exams.

Excused absences include participation in University-sponsored events, health problems, or family emergencies. Documentation, from the university, recognizing an excused absence must be provided. Notification of planned excused absences should be provided.

Make-up work will be accepted for a maximum of 2 weeks following an excused absence. [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/class-attendance-and-excused-absence-6.7.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/class-attendance-and-excused-absence-6.7.pdf)
Responsible Use of Technology: It is expected that all students will only use cell phones, PDAs, laptop computers, MP3 players and other technology outside of class time or when appropriate in class. Answering a cell phone, texting, listening to music or using a laptop computer for matters unrelated to the course may be grounds for dismissal from class or other penalties. Put them away during any exam period; if I see a cell phone during an exam, I will consider that student to be cheating on the exam with appropriate consequences.

Acceptable Student Behavior: Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy 10.4). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-code-of-conduct-10.4.pdf.

Ethics and Professionalism: All of the students in this class and in the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture are expected to conduct themselves in an ethical and professional manner. For wildlife biologists and managers, The Wildlife Society has established a Code of Ethics to which these professionals are expected to adhere. I strongly encourage you to read and abide by these guidelines, available on the D2L course website. Remember that most of you are preparing to join either the work force or graduate school as representatives of this College and the profession. Try to begin acting accordingly.

Student Academic Dishonesty Policy (4.1): Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/4.1-student-academic-dishonesty.pdf.

Course Grades Policy (5.5): Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student
cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/5.5_course-grades.pdf.

*Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities Policy (6.1):* To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

*Mental Health:* SFASU values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
SFASU Counseling Services
www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
3rd Floor Rusk Building
936-468-2401
SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
Human Services Room 202
936-468-1041
Crisis Resources:
Burke 24-hour crisis line 1(800) 392-8343
Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1(800) 273-TALK (8255)
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741