

Course Syllabus  
**Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Conservation**  
WIS 4523: Fall 2023

**Class Times:**

Tuesday: Period 8 3:00pm – 3:50pm NZH 0222

Thursday: Periods 8 – 9 3:00pm – 4:55pm NZH 0222

**Instructor:** Dr. Nia Morales, Assistant Professor of Human Dimensions

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**Course Description:**

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The field of human dimensions of natural resources conservation evaluates how peoples' values, culture, knowledge, opinions, and tolerance influence natural resource management. Practitioners of human dimensions work to identify stakeholders, understand stakeholder knowledge and opinions, and use this information to guide management decisions or to effectively communicate environmental messages. In this course, students will be exposed to the principles of human dimensions, strategies for stakeholder evaluation and communication, and human dimensions applications in management.

**Course Objectives:**

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

- Identify stakeholders of natural resource issues
- Identify qualitative and quantitative research tools and their applications
- Develop a quantitative survey to address a natural resource issue
- Understand the practical application of human dimensions methods in a variety of agencies and organizations

**Grading Policy:**

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All assignments are to be typed, not handwritten, and should be submitted in accordance with the assignment description. Assignments are due at 3pm on the due date unless otherwise specified. Late submissions of assignments will result in a 10% reduction in the assignment grade per day and will not be accepted after five days. The grading scale will be 94-100 A, 90-93 A-, 87-89 B+, 84-86 B, 80-83 B-, 77-79 C+, 74-76 C, 70-73 C-, 67-69 D+, 64-66 D, 60-63 D-, <60 = unacceptable (E)

There are a total of 500 points available between assignments, attendance, and exams. The number of points available per assignment and exam is described in the Assignments and Grades section.

**Attendance Policy:** Students are required to attend each session and attendance will be taken in each session. Each student is allowed **two** unexcused absences. After the second unexcused absence, each will count as a 2-point deduction in the participation portion of your grade. If you are having difficulties with attendance due to technical issues, please let your instructors know as soon as possible.

**Readings:**

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Readings will come from the required text or will be posted on the e-learning website.

Required Text: Decker, D.J., Riley, S.J., & Siemer, W.F. (eds). 2012. Human Dimensions of Wildlife Management. The Johns Hopkins University Press.

Recommended Text: Jacobson, S.K. 2009. Communication Skills for Conservation Professionals. Island Press.

**Discussions:**

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Typically, Thursday classes will consist of a variety of activities and discussions. You are expected to be an active participant in discussion sessions. Each student will have the opportunity to lead discussions and activities and will be expected to come prepared to develop discussion prompts/questions when necessary. Active participation in these sessions is part of your overall participation grade (4% of your total grade).

## **Assignments and Grades:**

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### ***Exams: 100 points each***

There are two exams. On the Thursdays of the weeks the exams are scheduled, there will be NO in-person class meeting. Exam 1 is open the Wednesday of that week and closes that Sunday. Exam 2 is open on the Tuesday due to the Veterans' Day holiday and closes that Sunday. Exams are open book but work must be done **individually**. There is no final exam during UF exam week.

### ***Assignment 1: Introduction Post- 5 points***

Due Date: September 3

Description: Introduce yourself to the class! Create a post on Canvas describing who you are. Where are you from? What do you like to do? Why are you taking this class? What do you hope to get out of the class? Include at least 1 picture/image to help us get to know you.

Grading Rubric: 5 points for on-time submission of a complete post, 0 points for late or incomplete submission

Submission: Upload to e-learning website

### ***Assignment 2: Wolf Case Study- 25 points***

Due Date: October 8

Description: For this case study, you will be graded in two parts. First will be your participation in the role play exercise (20 points); second will be for your 1-2 page summary/debrief (10 points).

Grading Rubric: See rubric on e-learning website for breakdown of points.

Submission: Upload to e-learning website

### ***Extra Credit: Reflection of NPR Podcast on black bear management- 5 points***

Due Date: October 8

Description: Listen to the NPR Podcast Invisibilia, Episode Reality Part I (<https://www.npr.org/2017/06/08/531904266/reality-part-one>). While listening, take notes on the questions posted on the e-learning website. Write a 1-2 paragraph reflection of the stakeholders and the issue, and what human dimensions techniques could have been used to diffuse the situation. Then write 1 -2 paragraphs on the podcast itself, including how the authors framed the story, whether it appropriately included details for the relevant audience, and what biases the authors may have that could have influenced the story.

Grading Rubric: Follows writing prompts and paragraph requirements (5 points).

Submission: Upload to e-learning website

### ***Assignment 3: Survey Project Pt. 1- 25 points***

Due Date: October 15

Description: In this 3 part project, you will choose a human dimensions issue in natural resource management, develop a proposal on the subject, design a quantitative survey and present your study and hypothesized results to classmates. Your objective for part I is to choose a topic and develop a 2-3 page research proposal.

Project Part 1: Develop a 2-3 page research proposal including an introduction to the issue and stakeholders involved, at least 2 research questions/objectives of the study, and general methodology.

Grading Rubric: See rubric on e-learning website for breakdown of points.  
Submission: Upload to e-learning website

**Assignment 4: Environmental Outreach on Campus- 25 points**

Due Date: October 29

Description: Design an outreach activity/program/material for a conservation area on campus. Detailed instructions on Canvas.

Grading Rubric: See Canvas for rubric

Submission: Upload to e-learning website

**Assignment 5: Survey Project Pt. 2- 25 points**

Due Date: November 12

Project Part 2: For part II of this project you will submit a survey instrument, a fully developed methods section expanding upon the general methods provided in part 1 of the project, and 1-2 paragraphs describing your hypothesized results.

Grading Rubric: See rubric on e-learning website for breakdown of points.

Submission: Upload to e-learning website

**Assignment 6: Survey Project Pt. 3- Final Presentations- 25 points**

Due Date: November 26

Project Part 3: For the final part of this project, you will present your study to the rest of the class in an e-poster session. These will be speed presentations; each presenter will have 3 minutes to describe their project/poster.

Grading Rubric: See rubric on e-learning website for breakdown of points.

Submission: the poster session will be done on Nov 28 and Nov 30 during class. Upload a copy of your presentation on the e-learning website **before class** November 28.

**In-Class Participation- 20 points**

Active participation is an important part of this course. You will be awarded up to 20 points for your engagement throughout the semester. Engagement is not solely limited to speaking in class or asking questions, but is related to your active participation in class activities and discussions, consistent attendance, and the quality of engagement.

Informed: Shows evidence of having done the assigned work.				
Thoughtful: Shows evidence of having understood and considered issues raised.				
Considerate: Takes the perspective others into account.				
Present: Shows evidence of regular attendance.				
	<b>High Quality</b>	<b>Quality</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Needs Improvement</b>
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>15-20</b>	<b>10-14</b>	<b>5-9</b>	<b>0-4</b>

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Points</b>
Assignment 1: Intro Post	9/3	5
Exam 1 (Online- Available 9/19/9/24)	9/24	100
Exam 2 (Online- Available 10/31-11/5)	11/5	100
Assignment 2	10/8	25
Assignment 3	10/22	25
Assignment 4	10/29	25
Assignment 5	11/12	25
Assignment 6	11/26	25
Participation (general attendance + discussion participation)		20
Total		350

***Extra Credit***

NPR Bear Podcast Reflection (5 points)

**Course Schedule:**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment/Reading</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>August 24</b>	Course Introduction & Introduction to Human Dimensions: Overview of fields involved	<i>Activity:</i> Review syllabus and course format. Discuss course expectations. <i>Readings:</i> Decker Chapter 1 Bennett et al. 2016. Biological Conservation
<b>2</b>	<b>August 29</b>	Basics of understanding behavior	<i>Readings:</i> Decker chapters 4 & 5 <i>Activity:</i> Lecture
	<b>August 31</b>		<b>*Intro post due 9/3</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>September 5</b>	Understanding Stakeholders	<i>Readings:</i> Decker Ch 11 Morales & Martin 2018 <i>Activity:</i> Lecture
	<b>September 7</b>		<i>Activity:</i> Guest lecture- Fátima Ramis- Engaging Stakeholders in Manatee Conservation in DR
<b>4</b>	<b>September 12</b>	Managing Stakeholders	<i>Readings:</i> Wolf Case Study <i>Activity:</i> Case study background info
	<b>September 14</b>		<i>Activity:</i> <i>Hour 1-</i> Wolf Role Play <i>Hour 2-</i> debrief

5	September 19	HD of wildlife mgmt	<i>Readings:</i> Skim Decker chs 13-15 <i>Activity:</i> Lecture
	September 21	<b>Exam 1 (No Class)</b>	<b>Exam open 9/21-9/24 Covers weeks 1-5</b>
6	September 26	Conservation Psychology & Communication	<i>Readings:</i> Jacobson et al. 2019 Clayton and Brook 2005 <i>Activity:</i> Lecture
	September 28		<i>Activity:</i> Breakout groups
7	October 3	Environmental Outreach	<i>Readings:</i> <i>Activity: Lecture</i>
	October 5		<i>Activity:</i> Guest Lecture: Corey Callahan * <b>Assignment 2 due 10/8</b> * <b>Extra Credit due 10/8</b>
8	October 10	Quantitative Research Techniques	<i>Readings:</i> Skim Israel Savvy Survey Series <i>Activity:</i> Lecture
	October 12		<i>Activity:</i> Guest Lecture 10/12: FWC's CCSSR
9	October 17	Qualitative Research Techniques	<i>Readings:</i> Creswell ch 9 <i>Activity:</i> Lecture
	October 19		<i>Activity:</i> Fish Bowl Focus Group * <b>Survey Proj Pt 1 due 10/22 (Assignment #3)</b>

10	October 24	Program Evaluation	<i>Readings:</i> Jacobson Chapter 11 <i>Activity:</i> Lecture
	October 26		<i>Activity:</i> Design a conservation program <b>*Assignment 4 due 10/29</b>
11	October 31	HD in Academia	<i>Readings:</i> Dayer and Mengak 2020
	November 2	<b>Exam 2 (No Class)</b>	<b>Exam open 10/31-11/5</b> <b>Covers weeks 6-10</b>
12	November 7	HD Graduate Research	<i>Activity:</i> Guest lecture: TBD
	November 9		<i>Activity:</i> Guest lecture: Manuel Morales-Mite <b>*Assignment 5 due 11/12</b>
13	November 14	HD Careers outside of Academia	<i>Readings:</i> *see canvas for reading assignment Smith 2011 Sexton 2013 Berny & Rootes 2018 Morales et al. 2021 <i>Activity:</i> Lecture
	November 16		<i>Activity:</i> Panel- Tracey Ritchie, Rebecca Mott, Danielle Ross-Winslow
14	November 21		<b>NO CLASS</b>
	November 23		<b>NO CLASS</b> <b>*Survey Proj Pt 3 due 11/26 (Assignment 6)</b>
15	November 28	Poster Presentations	
	November 30		
16	December 5		Course Evals