Human Dimensions of Wildlife

Held T/Th, 3:30 to 4:50 PM, Liberal Arts Building Room 305
see Moodle for weekly schedule

No textbook required. All readings will be posted on Moodle.

Professor: Dr. Alexander L. Metcalf; Office Hours by zoom appointment (just send an e-mail)

Our course delivery during COVID-19 pandemic

All course details, announcements, and assignments will be posted on our Moodle course page. Attendance and active participation are required. I will post a "Weekly Plan" on Moodle so you know what to do to stay on track. We will meet in person in LA305 and via Zoom whenever transmission is too high in Missoula County.

For more information, visit:

https://www.umt.edu/coronavirus

Instructor Information

Alexander L. Metcalf, PhD

Please call me: Dr. Metcalf, Professor Metcalf, or Alex.

How do you pronounce that: Like, I "met" a "calf" - yes, like a baby cow!

How to contact me: please e-mail at alex.metcalf@umontana.edu (I receive ~100 emails per day, so if I have not replied within 3 days, please e-mail [nicely] again; I do not reply to e-mail on weekends).

Ask me about: Anything! Class, research, grad school, jobs, UM, hunting, fishing, public lands

If wildlife management is "people management" how do you do that?

What is the 'public trust' and how do managers fulfill this responsibility?

How can behavioral science help us reduce human-wildlife conflict?

Is 'coexistence' a thing and how might it be achieved?

If these questions intrigue you, this is the course for you! This course provides a foundation for students to understand the human dimensions of fish and wildlife management. Successful resource management requires an understanding of how people value and interact with wildlife populations. We will use contemporary wildlife challenges facing Montana as focal points for learning.

Our journey will begin with a personal exploration of our relationships with wildlife and collectively building an appreciation for the social contexts and constraints of fish and wildlife management. From there, the course will have four main sections, including public trust and involvement, North American wildlife decision making structure, social theory and its relevance to wildlife management, and common human dimensions methods used by researchers and public agencies.

A tagged grizzly bear quickly crosses a road in Yellowstone National Park (2014) while a ranger keeps onlookers at bay near LeHardy Rapids—photo credit: Eric Johnston

Learning objectives and assessment

What will you learn in this class?

Our learning objectives are:

1. Appreciate and consider the role of humans in wildlife management

2. Understand public trust doctrine and the role of public involvement in wildlife management

3. Build competency applying human dimensions theory to questions of wildlife management

4. Gain familiarity with common methods used to collect human dimensions of wildlife data

How will you be graded?

30% PREPARATION	
30% ASSIGNMENTS	
30% PARTICIPATION	
10% ATTENDANCE	
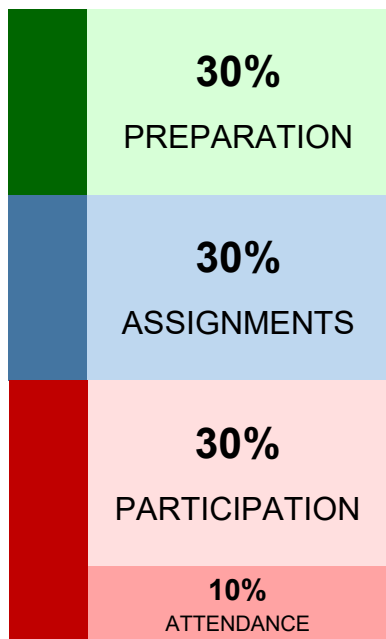
Course Format

This course will be delivered **in person,** with **online materials** (including readings, podcasts, and assignments). As COVID-19 conditions fluctuate, it may be necessary to hold class meetings on zoom for short durations during the semester. UM Policy requires each of us wear a mask in all indoor spaces, including our classroom. You are strongly encouraged to wear a high-quality mask (e.g., N95 or KN95), which I can provide if needed.

Online materials can be found on our Moodle course site. There are general course materials and weekly course resources. *Students are expected to familiarize themselves with Moodle,* ask clarifying questions if necessary, and become proficient navigating Moodle. Visit moodle.umt.edu for more.

PREPARATION is essential for this discussion-based course to succeed. As such, your preparation will be worth 30% of your grade. This includes completing readings, listening to podcasts, and/or completing preparatory materials (e.g., discussion questions, reading reflections, other). *Each of these tasks must be complete before class*. All preparation information, instructions, and most materials will be posted on Moodle.

There will be two major projects or **ASSIGNMENTS** throughout the semester: 1) present a summary and review of a substantive media product (e.g., book, film, magazine or newspaper feature), and 2) present a proposal for an HDW project. Completing these with care and quality will earn you another 30% of your grade for the semester (15% each).
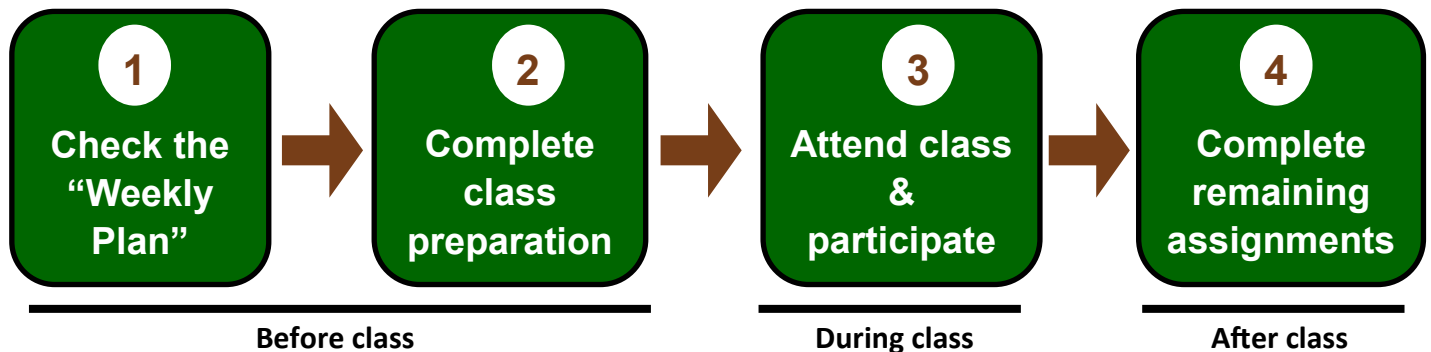
ATTENDANCE will be required as will active **PARTICIPATION**. I expect each of you to listen actively during class lectures and participate vigorously in class discussions and exercises while avoiding distractions and absences. Attending class each day will earn you 10% of your grade; participating with enthusiasm is worth the final 30% of your semester grade.

Other resources or means of engagement may be deployed throughout the semester as pandemic conditions change. For example, we may use Qualtrics surveys to collect data; we may invite guest speakers to join the entire class; or we may replace assignments with other opportunities as they arise.

Accommodations are available to *any* student willing to collaborate with the instructor and potentially UM's Office of Disability Equity (ODE). If there is an accommodation that would help you learn, please e-mail me with details and we will work together to develop appropriate modifications. You can also contact ODE directly at 406.243.2243 or ode@umontana.edu

Typical Week in WILD 291

To prepare for a typical week in WILD 291 you should log into Moodle and **check the "Weekly Plan"** listed under the week/topic section. The weekly plan will tell you what you have to do for the week. It will often instruct you to READ a book chapter, article, or website; WRITE responses to a prompt; PREPARE questions for our discussions; LISTEN to a podcast; WATCH a lecture or video; COMPLETE a survey or assignment; and/or ATTEND a course meeting.

1 Check the "Weekly Plan"	→	2 Complete class preparation	→	3 Attend class & participate	→	4 Complete remaining assignments
Before class				**During class**		**After class**

Before class you should prepare for class by completing each task listed in the weekly plan.

During class we will discuss topics, conduct activities, and answer your questions.

After class you should complete any remaining assignments.

Expectations

What I expect from you, and what you can expect from me

I expect each of you to actively contribute to our learning environment. This goes beyond completing assignments and engaging in discussion and includes treating your instructors and fellow classmates with utmost respect and care. I also expect you to take an active role in your education. I have eliminated the required textbook from this course in favor of selected and open access resources. I expect you to read these materials on your own time before class periods. I expect you to ask questions and for assistance. If you don't understand something, please ask. I am happy to engage over e-mail or set up individual meetings if necessary. Do not limit your questions to course material - ask me anything that might help you in your pursuits!

I expect you to be honest and demonstrate academic integrity. This includes not reproducing or distributing course materials, following instructions for individualized work, and not copying or plagiarizing others' work. Please visit http://www.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/default.php to read the UM Student Conduct Code. Violations are serious and will result in reduced or no credit for the assignment, no credit for the course, and/or references to the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

I expect you to familiarize yourself with all UM policies including the course drop deadlines, which fall on the 15th instructional day, after which you can longer drop the course with a refund and avoid a "W' on your transcript; and the 45th instructional day, after which you can only drop the class for a few, limited and generally unusual reasons.

You can expect me to create an inclusive and conducive learning environment. You can expect me to be responsive to your concerns and to your questions. You can expect me to be a partner in your learning.

TENTATIVE Schedule & Topics

Week 1 (Jan. 18) - Introduction to the course, each other

Week 2 (Jan 25) - Overview of Human Dimensions of Wildlife

Week 3 (Feb. 1) - North American Model of Wildlife Management, critiques, and evolution

Week 4 (Feb. 8) - Public Trust Doctrine

Week 5 (Feb. 15) - Ethics, goals, & involving the public

Week 6 (Feb. 22) - Wildlife governance and decision-making

Week 7 (Mar. 1) - Presentations (Assignment 1)

Week 8 (Mar. 8) - Wildlife habitat; private lands

Week 9 (Mar. 15) - Hunting and fishing regulation setting and structure

Week 10 (Mar. 22) - SPRING BREAK

Week 11 (Mar. 29) - Social-psychology & behavioral theory

Week 12 (Apr. 5) - Wildlife value orientations

Week 13 (Apr. 12) - Hunter/angler behavior, recruitment, retention, and reactivation (R^3)

Week 14 (Apr. 19) - Sociology of wildlife management

Week 15 (Apr. 26) - Human dimensions of wildlife research methods and data

Week 16 (May 3) - Flex

FINAL EXAM - Tuesday May 10 from 1:10 to 3:10PM, in person presentations (Assignment 2)