

Syllabus

WLF 201 – Wildlife Management Principles – Spring 2009

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Classrooms: Lecture—183 AHRB, MW 11:45-12:45
Lab—303 Irving I, T 2:15-5:15

Required text:

Kriasman, PR. 2002. Introduction to Wildlife Management: The Basics. Prentice Hall.

Course description:

WLF 201 is an introductory course to the field of wildlife management. It provides students with a basic understanding of the practice of wildlife management, including biological principles important to the understanding of wildlife populations and their habitats as well as strategies implemented by resource managers to achieve specific outcomes. The course will also introduce students to species of wildlife of management interest in Alaska. Instructional methods will include lecture, computer simulations and demonstrations.

This course requires students to have taken introductory biology courses as well as ecology. It is recommended that students have microcomputer experience because laboratory exercises will require use of a computer for much of the semester.

Course goals:

- Provide students with an understanding of a) the ecological principles governing wildlife populations and their habitats, and b) principles underpinning management of wildlife populations and their habitats for societal goals.
- Introduce students to aspects of the biology and management of different types of wildlife, and current wildlife management issues in Alaska.

Examples of student learning outcomes:

Students will:

- Understand how the history of wildlife management in the United States has led to the current system of management

- Apply principles underpinning population growth and regulation to address wildlife management problems
- Differentiate among management strategies for decreasing and increasing wildlife populations
- Understand the effects of external influences on wildlife populations, such as predation, disease, parasites, weather, human disturbance and loss of habitat
- Identify Alaskan wildlife species of management interest and know their habitat affinities and life-history characteristics
- Understand and implement strategies for sampling wildlife populations
- Be able to analyze vital rates of wildlife populations with life-table analysis
- Construct simple population models using computer spreadsheets

Academic dishonesty: The UAF Student Code of Conduct is presented on page 73 of the 2005-06 UAF Catalog. You will be expected to abide by that code. No collaboration among students will be allowed on exams, quizzes or assignments unless expressly permitted by me. Copying or paraphrasing another student's writing is a violation of the Student Code. Copying or paraphrasing published material without proper attribution is plagiarism and is a serious academic offense. If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, see the following web page or see me.

www.uaf.edu/library/instruction/handouts/Plagiarism.html

Evidence of academic dishonesty will be presented to the UAF Director of Judicial Services and may result in an F for the course and/or expulsion from the University.

Disabilities: If you have a learning disability, please inform me before the end of the second week of class. If you have not already contacted the UAF Center for Health and Counseling (474-7043; TTY 474-7045) to document your disability, please do so at your earliest opportunity. They will work with me to provide reasonable and appropriate accommodations for persons with documented disabilities.

Grading:

Grades will be assigned based on your performance on the 4 lecture exams, laboratory exercises and species exam, and an in-class presentation. Late assignments will not be accepted. Regardless of the point value of any item, each will be weighted to account for the following percentages of the final grade.

Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Exam 3	15%
Final exam	15%
Laboratory exercises	20%
Wildlife species outline	5%
Wildlife species presentation	10%
Wildlife species exam	5%

Grading scheme

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

I will not utilize +/- grading.

Attendance: You are expected to attend all lecture and laboratory activities. I will not accept laboratory assignments from students who did not attend the laboratory from which the assignment was derived unless a waiver from me is obtained in advance. Waivers will be granted only in unusual circumstances.

Schedule: The accompanying lecture schedule is tentative and is meant to give you a general idea of the topics we will cover in class and lab and the order in which they will be presented. There may be times when it is necessary to stray from this schedule but I will make every effort to inform you ahead of time if that happens.

Final exam: 8 May, 10:15-12:15

The final exam will be comprehensive.

Wildlife species presentations:

At the end of the semester we will have student presentations on various wildlife species in lab. We will focus on Alaskan species. Students will check with me to select species and dates for their presentation. You must choose from the attached list of either a mammal or bird (or species group). If you wish to focus on species not on the list, check with me. You will research the species and prepare a PowerPoint presentation of 12 minutes in length summarizing aspects of the species' life history and management. Your presentation should be based on an outline, which will be submitted for grading and review. Your outline will be returned to you with suggestions for improving your presentation. Outlines are due at the beginning of lab on 7 April.

Presentations should include at least one good picture of the species along with a range map. They should include life-history information such as life-span, productivity, breeding season, migration characteristics (if any), preferred habitats, food habits, management status in Alaska (harvested for sport and/or subsistence, protected, etc.), government agency with management authority, and any other pertinent information you care to include. You should also include a discussion of key characters for distinguishing this species in the field from similar species, or among the species if you are discussing a group. Finally, the presentation should include a brief summary of one research article concerning your species. You must cite at least 3 sources for your information, only one of which can be Internet-based. Be sure to properly cite any images you use from

publications or the Internet. PowerPoint presentations will be turned in for grading after the presentations.

Presentations will be graded on organization and clarity of presentation, quality of visual aids, accuracy and completeness of information, conformity to time limit, and ability to answer questions from the class. On the final day of the class there will be a test covering the material presented by students.

Species list for presentations:

Mammals:

- Moose
- Wolf
- Caribou
- Dall sheep
- Mountain goat
- Sitka black-tailed deer
- Elk
- Black bear
- Brown bear
- Wolverine
- Marten and mink
- Arctic fox and red fox
- Beaver and muskrat
- Land otter and sea otter
- Beluga
- Walrus
- Stellar's sea lion

Birds:

- Canada goose (as a group)
- Other geese (emperor, white-fronted, brant, snow)
- Dabbling ducks (mallard, pintail, teal, etc.)
- Diving ducks (harlequin, scaup, goldeneyes, eiders, etc.)
- Mergansers (hooded, common, red-breasted)
- Swans (trumpeter, tundra)
- Loons (common, pacific, red-throated, yellow-billed, arctic)
- Grouse (ruffed, blue, spruce, sharp-tailed)
- Ptarmigan (willow, rock, white-tailed)
- Sandhill crane

Tentative lecture schedule

Week	Lecture topics	Reading assignment
1 (26-28 Jan)	Introduction	Chapters 1-3
2 (2-4 Feb)	History of wildlife management	Chapter 5 (pp. 80-100, 112-114)
	Wildlife law	
3 (9-11 Feb)	Basics of populations	Chapter 6-8
	Populations (cont.)	
4 (16-18 Feb)	Catch-up or review	
5 (23-25 Feb)	Exam 1	Chapter 5 (pp. 100-112)
	Life tables	
6 (2-4 Mar)	Population Estimation	Chapter 15
7 (9-13 Mar)	Spring Break	
8 (16-18 Mar)	Harvest theory	Chapter 10
	Harvest management	
9 (23-25 Mar)	Exam 2	Chapter 14
	Habitat	
10 (30 Mar-1 Apr)	Nutrition and assessing habitat	Chapters 13, 16
	Habitat management	
11 (6-8 Apr)	Predation	Chapters 9, 11
	Diseases and parasites	
	Catch-up/review	
12 (13-15 Apr)	Exam 3	
	Adaptive management	
13 (20-22 Apr)		
14 (27-29 Apr)	Nuisance wildlife, exotics & other contemporary issues	Chapter 18
15 (4 May)	Wildlife species quiz	
	Review	
16 (11 May)	Final exam (comprehensive)	

Tentative lab schedule

Week	Topic
1 (27 Jan)	Basics of data
2 (3 Feb)	Statistical distributions
3 (10 Feb)	Sampling
4 (17 Feb)	Population analysis: growth models
5 (24 Feb)	Cemetery life tables
6 (3 Mar)	Squirrel index
7 (12 Mar)	----SPRING BREAK----
8 (17 Mar)	Population estimation
9 (24 Mar)	Harvest models, stochasticity
10 (31 Mar)	Creamer's Refuge trip
11 (7 Apr)	Predation; presentation outlines due
12 (14 Apr)	Mock Game Board meeting
13 (21 Apr)	Mammal species presentations
14 (28 Apr)	Bird species presentations