WLF 201

Wildlife Management Principles

Course Objectives: This course will introduce students to principles used to manage wildlife populations for a specific objective. Effective management first requires an understanding of the wildlife and their habitats, so we will focus on those topics throughout most of the course. We will examine principles of sampling, harvest, and human-dimensions as these concepts are used to manage wildlife. Lab exercises will generally demonstrate hands-on applications of the principles.

Instructor
Mark Lindberg
411 Irving I
x6598
m.lindberg@uaf.edu
Schedule: Spring 2003

Class Time and Place
Lecture TR, 11:30-12:30, Irving 201
Lab T, 2:00-5:00, Irving 201

TA
Bryce Lake
307 Irving I
x6602
fsbcl@uaf.edu
Office Hours: T/TH 12:3

Text
Eric G. Bolten, and William Ecology and Management
WLF 201 - Term Project  
Spring 2003

The objectives of this term project are to provide you with practical experiences in several aspects of scientific investigation including: collaboration, problem formulation, data collection, data analysis, and communication (written and oral). To complete this project you and your partner will apply the principles learned in this class to an ecological question of interest. I suggest that you focus on questions that require you to apply the principles of sampling, estimation, and inference.

Here are the nuts and bolts of the project:

- Select a partner and identify a questions of interest.
- Collect necessary data on the study system using sampling principles to address the question of interest. I anticipate that data collection will require about 1 week of work. Be sure you can justify the sampling approach that you used and sample size that you used.
- Analysis the data to describe the sample you collected and estimate population parameters.
- Report your findings in a written report and prepare an oral presentation.

The written report should include the following section:

- Title page - Identifies you and your coauthor and the title of your project
- Introduction - Background information about the relevance of the question you posed and a clear statement of your ecological question.
- Methods - A blueprint of how you conducted data collection and analysis. I should be able to reconstruct your study from you description. Your Methods section should address the following questions.

What was the target population of interest?  
What was the sample frame?  
How was the population sampled?  
How were the data analyzed?  
This section may also reference figures that depict your sampling design or study area.

- Results - Report, but do not discuss results in this section. You should report descriptive statistics for your sample and estimates of population parameters. Statistics and estimates are probably best summarized in a Table or Figure.
- Discussion - Here, consider the nuances of study. What were the strengths and limitations of your sampling design. Did you effectively address the question that you posed. Can you make valid inferences to the target population - why or why not? What might you change if you had to do the study again.

The title page should be a single page and the body of the report should not exceed 4 pages, excluding figures and tables (and literature cited?).

You and your partner will give an oral presentation at the end of the semester. Presentation should be 15-20 minutes in length with 5-10 minutes for questions. The presentation should be supported with appropriate visual aids (overheads, slides, or computer projections). I will provide further details for the format of presentation later in semester.

Time Line

http://mercury.bio.uaf.edu/courses/wlf201/project_2003.htm  
1/21/2003
• Work with me to decide on an idea and obtain approval for your idea by 11 February.
• All reports will be due on 15 April and presentation will be given during lab on 15 and 22 April.

Grading

The project proposal will be worth 1% of your semester grade. The written report and your oral presentation will each be worth 7% of your grade for the semester.

I will grade the written report based on the following criteria:

• Clear statement of ecological problem or question in the Introduction
• Methods:
  Target population correctly and clearly identified
  Sampling frame correctly and clearly identified
  Was an appropriate sampling design used
  Was an appropriate analysis used

• Results:
  Were statistics and estimates presented?
  Were the calculations done correctly?

• Discussion:
  Clear and concise discussion of inferences
  Consideration of both strengths and weaknesses of study

• Originality - 1% (study question, use of figures or tables in report, etc.)

I will grade the oral presentation using the following criteria:

• Organization and clarity of presentation (say what your going say, say it, and say it again)
• Organization and clarity of visual aids
• Talk completed in appropriate amount of time
• Ability to answer question posed by audience
• Originality (e.g., special visual aids)
Your grade will be determined using 3 measures of performance: exams (3), lab assignments, and a term project. Regardless of the point value for each of these measures, they will count for the following % of your grade:

- Exams - 75% (each exam is worth 25% of your grade)
- Lab Assignments - 10%
- Term Project - 15% (1% Proposal, 7% Report, 7% Presentation)

Grades will be assigned as follows:

- >89.9% A
- 80-89.9% B
- 70-79.9% C
- 60-69.9% D

Exams

- Exams will be cumulative and may include some take-home work.
- Identify your exams and your assignments using your SS#, so I can be as objective in grading as possible.

Term Projects

- You will work in teams of 2 to complete the term project.
- Each team will prepare a written report and provide an oral presentation to the class.
- Instructions for the term project are provided through the term project link.