Wildlife Techniques
WILDLIFE 303w (Fall 2004)
(tentative; version 17 June 2004)

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Lecture: Monday and Wednesday 9:15 – 10:15 a.m., 208 Irving 1
Lab: Monday 2:15-5:15, 103 Irving 1

Course Web Page: http://courses.uaf.edu (WLFF303w)

Course Description: In order to study, manage and conserve Wildlife efficiently, it is crucial to apply professionally accepted and sound methods. This course is specifically designed for students to learn, understand and apply basic but fundamental concepts, methods and themes in Wildlife Biology and how these relate to species, populations, habitat, management, conservation etc. A problem-based learning approach is followed encouraging student inquiry; critical thinking is expected. Students will learn the core concepts of Wildlife Biology, e.g. how to identify wildlife species, how to sex and age mammals and birds, how morphometric measurements are taken, how wildlife species are studied quantitatively in the field, in captivity and in the lab. Although the course focuses primarily on North American wildlife, some global issues will also be discussed. Proper articulation (written and oral) of wildlife biology and management issues constitute an important part of the course. This is a writing intensive course and it meets the UAF requirements. Besides lectures and studies of wildlife in captivity, the course will also consist of guest lectures, group discussions, private instruction, paper writing, a presentation, poster plotting, and use of Blackboard. Additional progressive approaches such as computing, data and internet/www applications will also be addressed in order to further prepare the student for future challenges which the fascinating discipline of wildlife biology might face.

Course Goals: Students will learn the core principles of Wildlife Biology and be able to know relevant details of the major wildlife species. It is the required foundation for upper level courses in Wildlife Biology. The course is designed as well to understand research disciplines and management topics related to the profession of a Wildlife Biologist.

Pre-requisites: BIOL 271 (Ecology), and WLF201 (Principles of Wildlife Management). Statistics (STAT 200 or 300) is recommended. Students without necessary prerequisites are subject to faculty initiated withdrawal (FIW) from this course. Students are required to attend all laboratories and students missing lectures also may be subject to FIW.
Grading Policy: Letter grades will be determined from the performance in labs (25%), quiz (7%), midterm (8%), term paper (20%) and final exam (40%).

Note: Late assignments will receive a grade of 0. Special arrangements or a doctor’s evaluation of illness are required to make up a test or other assignment. I reserve the right to add additional tests, quizzes or assignments if students do not come to lecture and lab prepared. I reserve also the right to curve tests if I deem this appropriate. Any form of plagiarism will not be tolerated and the UAF Code of Honor will be followed. Any details presented in this course outline can be subject to change.

Readings: The course will closely follow two standard references by:
Other references will be relevant as well for this course (see below).

Recommended Books:


An additional reading list of journal papers etc. will be made available on reserve, which will include for instance:


**Supplies required:** Field and outdoors gear, notebook, pen, computer (word processing, printer) and internet access

**Disabilities Services:** The Office of Disability Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. I will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (203 WHIT, 474-7043) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities.