Wildlife Techniques
WILDLIFE 303w (Fall 2006)
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Office hours: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday

TA: NA  Office: NA
Phone: NA  E-mail: NA
Office hours: NA

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

Course Web Page: http://courses.uaf.edu (WLF 303w for the year 2006)

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 motivated 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 and conservation. 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 relevant 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 relevant UAF requirements. Besides lectures and studies of wildlife in captivity at LARS (Large Animal Research Station UAF campus; scheduled for the first week-end of the course), the course will also consist of guest lectures, group discussions, private instruction, paper writing and review sessions, digital file operations, public speaking, poster plotting (cost of app. 40$), and make use of Blackboard (online). 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 modern core principles and techniques of Wildlife Biology and be able to know relevant details of the major wildlife species. This course presents the required foundation for upper level courses in professional Wildlife Biology. I expect motivated and professionally behaving students because this course is certified by The Wildlife Society (TWS) and 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 also required to fully collaborate, appear punctual to lectures/labs and assignments, attend all laboratories, and hand in assignments in time. Students missing lectures, labs and assignments also may be subject to FIW.

Credits: 3

Grading Policy: Letter grades will be determined from the performance in labs (25%: attendance, book chapter discussion, performance test), several quizzes (7%), one midterm (8%), two term papers (20%; LARS data write-up, wildlife species research/review) and one 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. You are expected you to do your own work in accordance with the UAF Student Code of Conduct (http://www.uaf.edu/catalog/current/academics/regs3.html). Cheating and plagiarism are very serious offenses, and will not be tolerated. Any exam or paper that contains plagiarized material will receive a grade of zero. Be sure you understand what constitutes plagiarism and cheating (see below for help on this). Any student who turns in a paper not written by him/herself (such as purchased from a company or downloaded from the Internet) will flunk the entire course. The Rasmuson Library has prepared materials to help you better understand how to properly cite sources. For an explanation of what constitutes plagiarism see: http://www.uaf.edu/library/instruction/handouts/Plagiarism.html. For an explanation of how to properly cite sources see: http://www.uaf.edu/library/instruction/handouts/Citing.html. Any details presented in this course outline can be subject to change.

Readings: The course will closely follow standard reference by:


Recommended Books (referred to in lectures, labs and assignments):


Other references will be relevant as well for this course (see below).

An additional reading list of journal papers etc. for background readings will be made available in my office, which will include for instance:


Supplies required: Field and outdoors gear, notebook, pen, computer (word processing, printer) and complete internet access. Students need to organize transportation to the LARS facility located on the UAF campus (e.g. by foot, bike or car).

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.