Syllabus

WLF 421
Ecology and Management of Large Mammals
3 credits – Fall 2008

Instructor: Kris Hundertmark
Office: 412 Irving I
Office hours: Open, except before class
Office phone: 474-7159
Email: ffkh@uaf.edu

Recommended text:

Other helpful texts:


Supplemental Readings: Readings from the primary literature will be assigned throughout the semester and will be discussed in class. Students will be required to write a short summary of assigned readings to be handed in prior to class discussion.

Course description: Identification, taxonomy, distribution, life history and ecology of North American large mammals. Exploration of roles of reproduction, predation, nutrition, habitat alteration, and competition in population dynamics of large mammals, and management practices designed for conservation of habitats and populations. Prerequisites: BIOL 271, WLF 201.

Course goals: Students will develop an understanding of ecological principles and management considerations pertaining to large mammals, develop competency in interpreting and communicating research findings to peers and lay audiences, and enhance skills in communication and critical thinking.

Instructional methods: Course material will be presented via lectures, supplemented with guest speakers, student presentations and group discussions.
Exams: There will be 2 mid-term exams and a final exam. The mid-term exams will not be comprehensive but the final may be. The exams will consist primarily of essay questions requiring synthesis of ideas and critical thinking. The final exam is scheduled for Thursday, December 16th from 8-10 AM.

Research paper and presentation: All students will be responsible for preparing a research report covering a topic concerning ecology and management of large mammals. The report will consist of a thorough literature review and will be prepared in manuscript format following Journal of Wildlife Management style. The paper should not exceed 15 pages of text, not including literature cited, tables and figures. You must get my approval of your topic by September 18th. A first draft of the paper will be due by October 30th and will count for 50% of the grade for the assignment. Late papers will be penalized heavily. I will review the draft, comment on it and return it to you. You will incorporate my comments into the final draft, which will be due by November 27th. Late papers will not be accepted. Finally, each student will prepare and present a PowerPoint presentation of their topic to the class during the first week of December. The presentation should last approximately 20 minutes, after which there will be time for questions.

Research paper timeline:

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Topic approval</td>
<td>18 September</td>
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<tr>
<td>First draft due</td>
<td>30 October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final draft due</td>
<td>27 November</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral presentations</td>
<td>1st week of December</td>
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Grading:

<table>
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<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam I</td>
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<td>Midterm exam II</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
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<td>Written report</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Readings summaries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral presentation</td>
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<td>Class participation</td>
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Grading scheme:

- A  ≥90%
- B  80-89%
- C  70-79%
- D  60-69%
- F  <60%
Course policies:
- Students are expected to attend all classes.
- I expect students to work independently on class assignments.
- Please turn off your cell phones in class. If your phone happens to ring during class, the worst thing you can do is answer it.

Lecture topics:
- History of management
- Taxonomy and distribution
- Wildlife values
- Behavior
- Population dynamics
- Population regulation & carrying capacity
- Predation
- Census techniques and harvest management
- Nutritional ecology, competition and facilitation in herbivore communities
- Sexual segregation
- Game ranching
- Trophy hunting
- Others?

Lecture schedule: TBD

Academic dishonesty: The UAF Student Code of Conduct is presented online at www.uaf.edu/catalog/catalog_08-09/academics/regs3.html#Student_Conduct and in the 2008-09 UAF Catalog. You will be expected to abide by that code. No collaboration among students will be allowed on exams and quizzes. Collaboration on projects will be permitted only to the extent I describe. 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.