Syllabus

WLF 421
Ecology and Management of Large Mammals
3 credits – Fall 2010

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

Recommended text:

Other helpful texts:


A couple of dated yet still highly relevant books:


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 10 pages of double-spaced text, not including literature cited, tables and figures. You must get my approval of your topic by September 17th. A first draft of the paper will be due in class on October 28th and will count for 70% 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 in class on November 25th. Late papers will not be accepted. Finally, each student will prepare and present a PowerPoint presentation of their topic to the class during the final 2 weeks of class. The presentation should last approximately 15 minutes, after which there will be time for questions.

**Research paper timeline:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Topic approval</td>
<td>17 September</td>
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<tr>
<td>First draft due</td>
<td>28 October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final draft due</td>
<td>25 November</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral presentations</td>
<td>1st 2 weeks of December</td>
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**Optional field trip:**

We will be traveling to Denali National Park on 25 September for an overnight trip to observe rutting moose. This is an optional field trip but is highly recommended. Getting
to where the moose are will require a 3-mile hike through the brush. The overnight stay will involve tent camping (with your own equipment) in a park campground. There is likely to be snow, so be prepared. More details will be provided in class.

Grading:

Midterm exam I  15%
Midterm exam II  15%
Final exam       20%
Written report  25%
Readings summaries  10%
Oral presentation  10%
Class participation  5%

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 silence your cell phones in class.

Lecture topics:

Taxonomy and distribution
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.

http://library.uaf.edu/ls101-plagiarism

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.