Syllabus

WLF 421
Ecology and Management of Large Mammals
3 credits – Fall 2014

Instructor: Kris Hundertmark
Office: 323D Margaret Murie Building
Office hours: MWF 10:15-11:15 or by appointment
Office phone: 474-7159
Email: kris.hundertmark@alaska.edu

Supplemental text:

Other helpful texts:


A couple of dated yet still highly relevant books:


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 371, WLF 322.
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. Powerpoints will be posted on Blackboard shortly after they are presented in class.

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, and may be take-home exams. The final exam is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17th from 8:00—10:00 AM in 105 Murie.

Supplemental Readings: Readings from the primary literature will be assigned throughout the semester and will be discussed in class, approximately one paper per week. I will lead some discussions and students will lead some. Students leading discussions will be assigned a paper to review and will critically examine the paper and its findings. Alternatively, students can review a paper of their choosing as long as I approve it in advance. Students will supply me with a PDF copy of their chosen paper to post on Blackboard a minimum of 1 week before the paper will be discussed in class. All other students will read the paper in advance of class and will come to class with 2 discussion questions typed out on paper. Each student will ask at least one of those questions during the discussion and the person leading the discussion will address it. Questions will be handed in at the end of class for credit. The student making the presentation will be graded on the completeness and quality of their presentation and their ability to answer questions. Questioners will be assessed by the quality of their questions.

Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm exam I</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm exam II</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussions</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading scheme (+/- grading will not be used):

- 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.
- No cell phones, tablets, or personal computers are to be used in class. To do so could lose you points for class participation.

Lecture topics:

- Taxonomy and distribution
- Population dynamics and harvest
- Population regulation & carrying capacity
- Predation
- Census techniques and harvest management
- Nutritional ecology, competition and facilitation in herbivore communities
- Social systems
- Sexual segregation
- Game ranching
- Trophy hunting
- Climate change
- Exotic and nuisance wildlife
- Disease
- Overabundance
- Others?

Lecture schedule: TBD

Optional field trip: We will have an optional overnight field trip to Denali National Park on 20-21 September to observe moose breeding behavior. Students must sign up for the field trip by 12 September. We will leave the university at 8 AM on Saturday in university vans, drive to Denali and hike in approximately 1 mile to look for moose. We will spend the afternoon observing moose behavior. We will be camping in Riley Creek campground along with students from The Wildlife Society student chapter. If you do not have adequate camping gear, go to Outdoor Adventures in the Wood Center and they can rent you some. Students will be responsible for purchasing food and planning dinner and breakfast. On Sunday we will drive into the park to the Teklanika rest stop before heading home in the afternoon. Expect to be back in Fairbanks in late afternoon. Be prepared for chilly and possibly wet weather.

Academic dishonesty: The UAF Student Code of Conduct is presented online at www.uaf.edu/catalog/catalog_13-14/academics/regs3.html#Student_Conduct and in the 2013-14 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.
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.