Wildlife Management—*Syllabus* **Instructor: Dr. Gabriel Karns**
Biological Sciences 1420 karns.36@osu.edu
Summer 2017 (*July 17-August 4*) 336-214-0397

COURSE INFORMATION & CLASS FORMAT

This course offers an introduction to wildlife management—understanding how wildlife population and habitat relationships can be translated to applied wildlife management. The course focuses on three primary areas: (1) measurement and analysis of wildlife habitat quality, (2) estimation and analysis of population demographics and wildlife abundance, and (3) combining knowledge from the first two areas into a synthetic understanding of how to manage contemporary wildlife management problems. By the end of the course, students will have experience with a wide variety of habitat and wildlife sampling techniques, skills associated with data collection and analysis, and increased proficiency to understand those data in the context of applying knowledge to fulfill wildlife management objectives. Field trips supplemented by classroom lectures during the first week will prepare students to conduct their own group projects (student's choice: focal taxa project—FTP *or* wildlife management plan—WMP) during the second week of the course. The third week will require students to perform appropriate data analyses and summarize findings into a final report. Other field experiences will be sprinkled throughout the entire course schedule (Allegheny National Forest, Benezette elk herd, to name a few).

TEXTBOOKS & FIELD GUIDES

There are no required textbooks for the course; however, we will be providing you with daily printed material that is 3-hole punched and ready for a binder. Please bring a 2", 3-ring binder in which to keep the distributed materials. Field guides are not required, but are highly recommended. Below are listed recommendations for appropriate taxa groups.

- *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America* (2003) – Sibley
- *A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians: East. and Central America* – Peterson
- The Peterson field guide is another good one for mammals

LAB EQUIPMENT & POLICIES

Students are expected to have field-hardy clothing and footwear for daily field excursions. Absolutely no open-toed shoes in the field. Please take necessary precautions for insect- and tick-bite prevention—this includes making me aware of any potential allergies related to insect bites or plant exposure. A pair of rubber boots or hip waders is recommended for working in wetland/stream habitats. Be prepared to stay in the field during inclement weather conditions (e.g., parka and waterproof bag for cell phones, papers, etc.), though policies concerning dangerous weather will be strictly adhered. Announced departure times for field trips are firm; if you are late, you may be left behind.

ASSIGNMENTS & EXAMINATIONS

Final exam (100 points) will be given at announced time and format will include a variety of multiple choice, true/false, short answer, schematic, and essay questions.

Assignments (6; 50 points each) are footnoted in the detailed calendar schedule below. A more in-depth description and tentative due date (if applicable) is provided for each below.

- [1/2/3/4/5/6] Worksheets/Lab reports

Peer - (50 points) & instructor-evaluation (50 points) of participation

COURSE PROJECT – FTP/WMP

Students will be divided into groups with each responsible for a project, examples include:

- Surveys & management plan for herpetofauna
- Surveys & management plan for migratory songbirds
- Forest management plan to enhance wildlife habitat (e.g., tree roosting bats)
- Grasslands management plan to enhance pollinator & brood-rearing habitat

The FTP/WMP will consist of a final written report (100 points) and a final group presentation (100 points). Detailed rubrics will be distributed at the end of first week.

GRADING SCALE

A+ ---------- >97.5%	**A** ---------- 92.5-97.4%	**A-** ---------- 90.0-92.4%
B+ ---------- 87.5-89.9%	**B** ---------- 82.5-87.4%	**B-** ---------- 80.0-82.4%
C+ ---------- 77.5-79.9%	**C** ---------- 72.5-77.4%	**C-** ---------- 70.0-72.4%
D+ ---------- 67.5-69.9%	**D** ---------- 62.5-67.4%	**D-** ---------- 60.0-62.4%

Grades will be assessed based on the number of points accumulated out of 700 points possible.

DISABLED STUDENT SERVICES

If you have physical or medical needs or learning disabilities that affect your ability to perform in this class, please inform me at the conclusion of the first class meeting. The same rule applies if you require assistance or accommodations for testing.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All academic work must meet PLE standards with regard to academic honesty and integrity. Students are responsible for educating themselves about these standards and policies.

CALENDAR**

DATE	EARLY AM	AM	AFTERNOON	PM
JUL-17		Overview of Wildlife Mgt	Herp Sampling; GPS Skills[1]	
JUL-18	Herp Sampling/ Bird Song ID	Study & Sampling Design – The 3 R's	Estimating Animal Abundance[2]	
JUL-19		Habitat Assessment & Sampling[3]		Prep for Small Mammal Sampling
JUL-20	Small Mammal Sampling	Pymatuning Propagation Area Field Trip	Mark-(Re)Capture[4]	Campfire Discussion
JUL-21		Field Trip TBD	FTP/WMP Team Assignments	
JUL-24		Telemetry[5]	FTP/WMP Planning/ Literature Review	Presque Isle Field Trip
JUL-25	FTP/WMP Surveys			
JUL-26	Collins Forest, Kinzua COOP & Allegheny NF Field Trip – Forest Mgt			
JUL-27	FTP/WMP Surveys	Erie National Wildlife Refuge Field Trip – Wetlands Mgt		Campfire Discussion
JUL-28	FTP/WMP Surveys	Tryon-Weber Woods Field Trip	Estimating Population Parameters[6]	
JUL-31	FTP/WMP Surveys		GIS & Macro-habitat Assessment	
AUG-1		Data Entry & Analysis FTP/WMP Projects	Leave for Benezette, PA after lunch	
AUG-2	Benezette Elk Herd & Moshannon State Forest Field Trip – Return to PLE evening			
AUG-3		FTP/WMP Data Analysis	FTP/WMP Report Preparation	
AUG-4		FTP/WMP Presentations & Peer Evaluations	Final Exam	

**Calendar is subject to considerable fluctuation and all important deadline changes will be announced.
****White cells are primarily indoors, gray cells are primarily outdoors****