

Wildlife Management—Syllabus
Biological Sciences 1420
Summer 2016 (July 18-August 5)

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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 (focal taxa project—FTP) during the second week of the course. The third week will require students to perform appropriate data analyses and construct a management recommendation report on their FTP. Other field experiences will be sprinkled throughout the entire course schedule (e.g., Allegheny National Forest, bird/bat mist netting, Benzette elk herd, etc.).

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

Written exams (2; 100 points each) will be given at announced times and format will include a variety of multiple choice, true/false, short answer, schematic, and essay questions.

Assignments (8; 50 points total) 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 Credit will be assessed for successfully locating X/Y coordinates necessary to conduct herpetofauna sampling
- ^{2/3/5/7} Worksheets/Lab reports
- ⁴ Conduct literature review and submit questions for group discussion
- ⁶ Species field identification quiz (local flora and fauna)
- ⁸ Credit will be assessed for successfully triangulating and locating transmitters

COURSE PROJECT – FTP

Students will be divided into 4 groups with each responsible for a project, examples include:

- Surveys & management plan for mammalian meso-carnivore spp.
- Surveys & management plan for herpetofauna
- Surveys & management plan for avian spp.
- Surveys & management plan for small mammals (i.e., Rodentia spp.)

The FTP will consist of a final written report (100 points) and a final group presentation (100 points). Detailed rubrics will be distributed during July 22nd's AM session.

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 800 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**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EARLY AM</u>	<u>AM</u>	<u>AFTERNOON</u>	<u>PM</u>
JUL-18		Overview of Wildlife Mgt	Herp Sampling; GPS Skills ¹	
JUL-19	Herp Sampling/ Bird Song ID	Study & Sampling Design – The 3 R's	Estimating Animal Abundance ²	
JUL-20		Habitat Assessment & Sampling	Habitat Assessment & Sampling ³	Campfire Discussion
JUL-21		Grasslands Birds Study Field Trip	Mark-(Re)Capture ⁴	Prep for Small Mammal Sampling
JUL-22	Small Mammal Sampling	Wildlife Management Field Trip	FTP Planning/ Literature Review*	
JUL-25		Scent Stations & Camera Traps ⁵	FTP Survey Final Planning/ Habitat Sampling	Presque Isle Bat Roosting Survey
JUL-26	FTP Surveys	FTP Surveys/Habitat Sampling	FTP Habitat Sampling	Campfire Discussion
JUL-27	Collins Forest & Allegheny NF Field Trip – Forest Mgt			
JUL-28	FTP Surveys	Erie National Wildlife Refuge Field Trip – Wetlands Mgt		Distance Sampling ⁶
JUL-29	FTP Surveys	Estimating Population Parameters ⁷	Telemetry ⁸	
AUG-1		Grasslands/Croplands Mgt Field Trip – NRCS	GIS & Macro-habitat Assessment ⁹	Bat & Invertebrate Sampling
AUG-2		Data Entry/ FTP Data Analysis	Leave for Benezette, PA after lunch	
AUG-3	Benezette Elk Herd & Moshannon State Forest Field Trip – Return to PLE evening			
AUG-4		FTP Data Analysis	FTP Report Preparation	Campfire Discussion
AUG-5		FTP Team Time/ Clean-up	FTP Presentations	

**Calendar is subject to considerable fluctuation and all important deadline changes will be announced.

***White cells are primarily indoors, gray cells are primarily outdoors.