

Conservation of Wildlife Populations – WILD 470

Spring Semester 2013

Instructor: Dr. Paul M. Lukacs

TA: Anne Schaefer

Required Readings (read before class each day)

Conservation of Wildlife Populations, 2nd edition

- Chapter assignments for each class shown in brackets

Additional readings to be assigned

Class meeting times: MWF 9:10-10 LA 342
T 1:10-2 STON 107

Office Hours (FOR 103b): MWF 11:10-12

January	Mon.	28	Course introduction and Context
		30	The Big Picture [Ch. 1]
February		1	How do we know? Study design and Hypotheses [Ch. 2]
	Mon.	4	Gaining Reliable Knowledge [Ch. 2, 3]
		6	Estimating abundance (Introduction and transects) [Ch. 4]
		8	Estimating abundance (mark-recapture) [Ch. 4]
	Mon.	11	Reliable knowledge in practice, Dr. Mills
		13	Survival and reproduction [Ch. 4]
		15	Population trend, exponential growth [Ch. 5]
	Mon.	18	President's Day – No Class
		20	Exponential Growth continued [Ch. 5]
		22	EXAM I
	Mon.	25	Stochasticity and population growth [Ch. 5]
		27	Population projection models [Ch. 6]
March		1	Population projection models [Ch. 6]
	Mon.	4	Population projection models [Ch. 6]
		6	Sensitivity Analysis [Ch. 6]
		8	Sensitivity Analysis [Ch. 6]
	Mon.	11	Density Dependence [Ch. 7]
		13	Density Dependence [Ch. 7]
		15	Predation [Ch. 8]
	Mon.	18	Inbreeding and wild populations [Ch. 9]
			1-minute presentation of proposal ideas
		20	Genetic variation and fitness [Ch. 9]
		22	Connectivity [Ch. 10]

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	Mon.	25	Meta-populations
		27	EXAM II
		29	Ecological traps and sinks [Ch. 10]
April	Mon.	1-5	SPRING BREAK
	Mon.	8	Human perturbations on populations [Ch. 11] Draft Research Proposal Due
		10	Small populations [Ch. 12]
		12	Population Viability [Ch. 12]
	Mon.	15	Focal species management [Ch. 13] Proposal Reviews Due
		17	Harvest management [Ch. 14]
		19	Harvest management [Ch. 14]
	Mon.	22	Harvest management [Ch. 14]
		24	Wildlife Population Monitoring
		26	Combining Science and Monitoring
May	Mon.	29	
		1	Adaptive Management
		3	
	Mon.	6	Case study Final Research Proposal Due
		8	Case study continued
		10	Conclusions and final thoughts

FINAL EXAM Friday May 17, 2012 at 10:10-12:10

GRADING: Grades will be based on 2 mid-term exams, the final exam, lab exercises and a written research proposal. Late assignments will be penalized 10% for each day late. All assignments must be turned in as hard copies, emailed or other electronic files will not be accepted.

Mid-term exam 1:	20%
Mid-term exam 2:	20%
Final exam:	25%
Lab excersises:	15%
Research Proposal:	20%

PLAGARISM: Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in failing the course.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL: Each student is required to prepare a research proposal on a topic of his or her choice related to wildlife population ecology. The proposal should include an abstract (≤ 350 words), introduction to the topic, research methods, expected products and literature cited. The proposal must also include a budget. The **maximum** length of the proposal including all sections is 10 pages, double-spaced with 12 point font.

Draft proposals are due Monday, April 8, 2013. Draft proposals will then be anonymously reviewed by two students in the class. Reviews must be submitted Monday April 15, 2013. Reviews should consider the scientific merit and clarity of presentation of the proposal. Students then must consider the reviews of their proposal, revise the proposal and submit the original draft, revised proposal, a cover letter describing how they addressed the reviews and the reviews on Monday May 6, 2013. Students will be evaluated on their proposal, how they handled the reviews and their reviews of other students' proposals.

UPPER DIVISION WRITING REQUIREMENTS: WILD 470 in conjunction with two additional upper division writing courses meets the university upper division writing requirement. WILD 470 specifically meeting the following outcomes:

- Identify and pursue more sophisticated questions for academic inquiry
- Find, evaluate, analyze, and synthesize information effectively from diverse sources
- Manage multiple perspectives as appropriate
- Recognize the purposes and needs of discipline-specific audiences and adopt the academic voice necessary for the chosen discipline
- Use multiple drafts, revision, and editing in conducting inquiry and preparing written work
- Follow the conventions of citation, documentation, and formal presentation appropriate to that discipline
- Develop competence in information technology and digital literacy

DROP DATES:

February 11th – This is the last day students can add or drop courses on Cyberbear, without a special fee or penalty.

February 14th-March 28th – Students can drop courses for any reason using a Course Drop Form during this period. Students will need to obtain signatures from the course instructor and then their faculty advisor. A \$10 fee will be assessed and there is no refund of tuition or fees. A W will show up on their transcript. Students need to be aware that dropping courses may have implications for financial aid and/or health insurance.

March 29th- May 6th - Students can only drop courses if they document an unforeseen medical or personal emergency (see Course Drop Form for allowable reasons) during this period. Students must obtain signatures from the course instructor, then their faculty advisor, and then Associate Dean. A \$10 fee is assessed and there is no refund of tuition or fees. A WP or WF will show up on their transcript, depending on performance thus far. Students need to be aware that dropping courses may have implications for financial aid and health insurance.