WIS 2040: WILDLIFE ISSUES IN A CHANGING WORLD

Sec. 4580 Fall 2012

Tuesday Period 4 (10:40 - 11:30)

Thursday Period 4-5 (10:40 - 12:35)

Professor:
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*The voice mail system on our phone has very limited space. If you wait until the last minute to call us the voice mail may be full.

Course Content: This course is designed specifically for students who wish to gain knowledge of selected issues affecting the future of biological diversity at the state, national, and international levels.

Course Objectives: This course satisfies 3 credits of the University of Florida's General Education requirement for Biological Science. The specific goals of the course are: (1) familiarize students with basic concepts, theories, and terminology of natural science, including the evolutionary basis for the five kingdom system of phylogeny and the scientific method; (2) appreciate and understand major scientific developments in wildlife ecology and conservation, as well as basic concepts and scientific principles of wildlife ecology and management and their individual impacts; (3) understand how the scientific method works and how to use the scientific method to analyze and resolve wildlife issues; (4) understand and the underlying biological basis for wildlife issues involving species from all five kingdoms.
COURSE MATERIALS

1. A course software packet entitled *Wildlife Issues in the New Millennium* is available for purchase at [www.faulknerpress.com](http://www.faulknerpress.com). The packet includes three reference reading chapters entitled (1) *Wildlife In America* (2) *Functional Components of Ecosystems* and (3) *Ecosystems and Wildlife of Florida*; 18 Topics (or Presentations) with audio recordings; Test-banks for self-study. This packet is highly recommended but not required, all content is available on reserve at the Marston Science Library, and students may complete all assignments in a hard copy form. Students choosing this option must physically come to my office to sign up for this option by the end of the third week of class (Sept 7) to make arrangements.

2. Lecture Guide – A lecture guide can be downloaded from the *Sakai site* (<http://lss.at.ufl.edu>) under *Resources*. The lecture guide is free of charge so I will assume that each student has a copy and there will be questions on the in-class exams from this lecture guide.

Course Policies

1. Students with disabilities should inform the instructor as soon as possible and make an attempt to sit near the front of the class.

2. I do not discuss grades over email or the telephone. If you have questions regarding your grade come and see me in Newins-Ziegler Hall (303).

3. Avoid sending email messages that cannot be answered with a few words. In other words If you have issues that require any discussion whatsoever, you must come in and see me.

GRADES

Your grade will be based on (A) 2 In-class closed book examinations: (B) 4 On-line Exercises.

**A. Exams (40 percentage points)** There will be two regularly scheduled (see Course schedule), multiple-choice exams in class, and each will be worth 20 percentage points. These exams will be *closed book* and be held during regular class time (see schedule for your time). Each exam will consist of 50 questions.

**B. On-line Exercises (60 percentage points)** There will be 4 on-line exercises, each will be worth 15 percentage points. Each of these exercises will have 50 questions, and students will have 60 minutes to complete them.
C. Extra Credit (5 percentage points) – Students who answer all the questions (not just the first 10) in each of the 18 software topics and submit them correctly will receive this extra credit.

Coverage for Exams:

Exam I (October 11, 2012) will cover lecture material (Lecture guide sections 1-12), Course Software Topics 1-9, Reference Chapter Wildlife In America in class material, and film questions (See Course Schedule under Resources for details).

Exam 2 (November 29, 2012) will cover lecture material (Lecture guide sections 13-24), Course Software Topics 10-18, Reference Chapters 2 (Functional Components of Ecosystems) & 3 (Ecosystems and Wildlife of Florida), in class material and film questions (See Course Schedule under Resources for details).

Optional Final (December 11, 2012 at 5:30 PM) – The cumulative (and closed book) optional final exam may be used to substitute for Exam 1 or 2. Note: If you arrive late there may be no one there. Students will have one hour to complete the exam.

Coverage for On-Line exercises:

i. Online Exercise 1 will cover Course Software Topics 1-6.

ii. Online Exercise 2 will cover Reference Chapter 1 (Wildlife In America); and software Topics 7-9.

**Online exercises 1& 2 must be finished by October 12, 11:59 PM (Friday)

iii. Online Exercise 3, will cover Course Software Topics 10-15

iv. Online Exercise 4, will cover Course Software Topics 16-18 (Functional Components of Ecosystems) and 3 (Ecosystems and Wildlife of Florida).

**Online exercises 3& 4 must be finished by December 7, 11:59 PM (Friday) -

Completing the Exams, Online exercises, and Extra credit.

Under Resources, I have posted a pdf showing the various screens needed to complete the exams, online exercises and extra credit. I will post codes for the online exercises under Resources on the Sakai site. You must complete the exercises by the due dates (see below).
Re-taking exercises: You only need to take each exercise one time. However, If you are not happy with your score on a particular exercise you may re-take it using a new code posted under Resources on the Sakai course page. There are 3 codes for each exercise, but be aware that only the last one you complete is recorded. So if you earn a lower grade on a re-take that is the score that will be recorded.

Submitting the Extra Credit assignment.

See the pdf under Resources on the Sakai course page for instructions on sending in the extra credit.

Grading Scale:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>&gt;89.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>85 – 89.4999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 - 84.4999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>75 - 79.4999</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 - 74.4999</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>65 - 69.4999</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 - 64.4999</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>&lt; 60</td>
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Note: I do not assign minus grades: Please go to the following site for information on the number of grade points for each grade:

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

Phone calls and messages:

The best way for students to get a message to me is to come to office hours. By all means feel free to telephone either the instructor or the TAs but due to the number of students enrolled it might be a long time before I can return your call. It is best for students attend office hours, slip a note underneath the door (Wildlife Issues Office N-Z 303), or arrange to meet outside of class, or email me. When contacting me by e-mail, phone message or note, please remember to keep it brief and include your name, UF ID, and contact information.
Academic Honesty, Software Use, UF Counseling Services, Services for Students with Disabilities

In 1995 the UF student body enacted a new honor code and voluntarily committed itself to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. When students enroll at the university, they commit themselves to the standard drafted and enacted by students.

In adopting this honor code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the university community. Students who enroll at the university commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the honor code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the honor code is bound by honor to take corrective action. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon community acceptance and enforcement of the honor code.

The Honor Pledge: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

On all work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

The university requires all members of its community to be honest in all endeavors. A fundamental principle is that the whole process of learning and pursuit of knowledge is diminished by cheating, plagiarism and other acts of academic dishonesty. In addition, every dishonest act in the academic environment affects other students adversely, from the skewing of the grading curve to giving unfair advantage for honors or for professional or graduate school admission. Therefore, the university will take severe action against dishonest students. Similarly, measures will be taken against faculty, staff and administrators who practice dishonest or demeaning behavior.

Students should report any condition that facilitates dishonesty to the instructor, department chair, college dean or Student Honor Court.

(Source: 2009-2010 Undergraduate Catalog)

It is assumed all work will be completed independently unless the assignment is defined as a group project in writing by the instructor.

This policy will be vigorously upheld at all times in this course.

Software Use:

All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university’s counseling resources. Both the Counseling Center and Student Mental Health Services provide confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear
career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance. The Counseling Center is located at 301 Peabody Hall (next to Criser Hall). Student Mental Health Services is located on the second floor of the Student Health Care Center in the Infirmary.

- **University Counseling Center**, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, [www.counsel.ufl.edu](http://www.counsel.ufl.edu)
- **Career Resource Center**, CR-100 JWRU, 392-1601 ext: 0, [www.crc.ufl.edu/](http://www.crc.ufl.edu/)
- **Student Mental Health Services**, Rm. 245 Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, [www.shcc.ufl.edu/smhs/](http://www.shcc.ufl.edu/smhs/)

  Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program (ASAP)
  
  Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
  
  Center for Sexual Assault / Abuse Recovery & Education (CARE)
  
  Eating Disorders Program
  
  Employee Assistance Program
  
  Suicide Prevention Program

**Students with Disabilities**

The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues.

0001 Reid Hall, 392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)