

WIS 2040: WILDLIFE ISSUES IN A CHANGING WORLD

Fall 2011

Section 4580X

Carleton - 0100

Tuesday Per 4 (10:40);

Thursday Per 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 Millenium* is available for purchase at (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 see the instructor by the end of the second week of class to make arrangements.

2. Lecture Guide – A lecture guide can be downloaded from the *Sakai site* (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

Students should carefully read the following 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. We do not discuss grades over email or the telephone. If you have questions regarding your grade come and see us 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 us.

GRADES

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

A. Exams (40 points) There will be two regularly scheduled, multiple-choice exams in class, and each will be worth 20 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 points) There will be four on-line exercises, each will be worth 15 points. Each of these exercises will have 50 questions, and students will have 60 minutes to complete them.

C. Extra Credit (5 points) – Students who answer *all the questions* in each of the 18 software topics and *submit them correctly* will receive this extra credit.

Coverage for Exams:

Exam I (October 13, 2011) 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 (Films 1-6: See Course Schedule under *Resources* for details).

Exam 2 (December 1, 2011) 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 (Films 7-12: See Course Schedule under *Resources* for details).

Optional Final (December 12, 2011; 10:00 AM in Carleton Aud) – The cumulative (and closed book) optional final exam may be used to substitute for Exam 1 or 2. Note: The proctors will leave as soon as everyone in attendance finishes the exam. So 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.
- 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*).

Completing the Online exercises.

I will post codes for the online exercises under Resources on the Sakai site. You may do the exercises whenever you feel ready, but note that in-class **Exam 1** includes material from Exercises 1&2, and **Exam 2** includes material from Exercises 3&4.

Completing the Extra Credit.

1. In the software the testbanks are located under the button (upper left corner of screen) marked "Assessments". Click on this button on the first page of the software.
2. Click on the Menu tab (upper left corner) of the window that opens.
3. Now you will see a box called "Topic Practice Questions", click on it and you will see a number of little open circles with names like Topic 1, Topic 2 and so on. These are the testbanks for the extra credit and practice tests for the exam and exercises in class.
4. Click on the little circle next to Topic 1 and then click the button below that says "Start".

When you click the 'Start' button you will be given 10 questions, just choose the answer and use the arrow keys to move to the next question. When you have answered 10, click the silver menu tab in the upper left corner again.

5. Now the 'Start' button says "Grade". Click it and it will tell you how many questions you answered correctly (thus if you answer 4 of the 10 questions correctly the box above the Grade / Start button will say Score 40). ***This score has nothing to do with your grade - you will receive the extra credit simply by answering all the questions in each of the testbanks correctly at least once.***

6. Now ***none of the topic testbanks have just 10 questions*** and the extra credit assignment is to ***answer every question in each testbank correctly at least once.*** So after you answer the first 10 in topic 1, click on the Start button again and you will get another 10.

7. Keep doing this (you always get 10 questions when you click "Start") until the small box below and to the left of the Start/Grade button says ***"items remaining 0"***.

8. This part of the program was designed to be a study tool, so that's why you just get 10 questions each time you click on Start. But there are usually 25-40 questions per testbank.

Submitting the Extra Credit assignment.

To submit the extra credit, click on “File” in the upper left of the screen and then select “Send”. An Output window will open. Click on the words “Work Statistics”. to highlight them and then click the submit button below and to the right. You can see your progress by logging into at the <www.faulknermedia.com> web site. When you open your account click on *Practice* to see your work.

Grading Scale:

Grade	Percentage
A	90 - 100
B+	85 - 89.4999
B	80 - 84.4999
C+	75 - 79.4999
C	70 - 74.4999
D+	65 - 69.4999
D	60 - 64.4999
E	< 60

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 a TA or the instructor 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 we 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 us. When contacting the instructor or any of the TAs 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
- *Career Resource Center*, CR-100 JWRU, 392-1601 ext: 0, www.crc.ufl.edu/
- *Student Mental Health Services*, Rm. 245 Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, 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/