# QUANTITATIVE WILDLIFE ECOLOGY

## WIS 4601 - Fall 2011

**Instructor:**
Dr. Bill Pine (billpine@ufl.edu; office phone 273 3650)
Office location: Room 1, Building 0087, (between NZ and McCarty Hall, see campus map here)
Office hours: Monday 10:30-12:30 or by appointment

**Teaching Assistant:**
Christ Cattau (cattau@ufl.edu)
Office location: Building 810 (due east of Reitz Union complex)
Office hours: Wednesday 2-3 pm or by appointment

**Lectures:** Monday and Wednesday, period 3 (9:35 AM – 10:25 AM) MCCB G108

**Labs:** Friday, periods 3-4 (9:35 AM – 11:30 AM) MCCB 2103

**Course Website:** via UF Sakai https://lss.at.ufl.edu/

**Course description:**

Many ecological, management, and conservation needs for animal populations are related to assessing questions related to "how many, how much, where, and when". The goal of this course is to provide students with the motivation and training to assess these questions as commonly encountered by natural resource professionals. Upon completing this course, students will be able to formulate hypotheses related to individuals or populations of animals, design studies to test these hypotheses, and analyze actual data sets from different field settings.

**Prerequisite:**

STA 2023 and WIS 3401.

**Required Text:**

None, course packet will be available electronically via SAKAI that contains required weekly readings, lecture, and lab information.

## GRADING

**Grading will be based on**:
10%, 10 points total, Quizzes based on readings and lectures (2-4 points each week)
50%, 120 points total, Weekly lab reports (15 points each – you choose which 8 labs to submit)
15%, 30 points total, Mid-term lab synthesis report
25%, 40 points total, Final comprehensive exam (Dec 16, 10:00 am -12:00 pm)

If the possible total points for an individual component of the course grading (for example, weekly quizzes) does not equal the point total listed above (higher or lower point total), I will convert the point total to a percentage and multiple that by the possible points.

A note on lab reports: You will choose which 8 lab reports to submit (of 10 lab assignments). If you submit more than 8 lab reports I will only record the score for the first 8 lab reports you submit. You will not be able to replace a lab report grade with an additional lab report. The mid-term lab synthesis report must be submitted by everyone and is not eligible to be skipped. It is highly recommended that you do not miss labs prior to the mid-term lab synthesis as these labs will be helpful in completing you lab project. You should review the "Notes and guidelines for lab reports" document found on the course Sakai page.

**Final course grades will be assigned based on the following percentages:**

| Percent of total points | Letter Grade |
|---|---|
| 97-100% | A+ |
| 93-96% | A |
| 90-92% | A- |
| 87-89% | B+ |
| 83-86% | B |
| 80-82% | B- |
| 77-79% | C+ |
| 73-76% | C |
| 70-72% | C- |
| 67-69% | D+ |
| 63-66% | D |
| 60-63% | D- |
| <60% | F |

## CLASS ATTENDANCE AND DEMEANOR POLICY

All students are expected to attend every class and lab and are responsible for the materials and information presented. Students who miss class for a UF approved reason (documented illness, trip, emergency, etc.) will be able to make-up exams and quizzes from that day. Unexcused late assignments will have 10% of the point total for that assignment deducted for each day late. A professional attitude is expected in all lectures and labs. Please do not disturb your fellow students by talking during class. Please minimize electronic distractions by silencing cell phones and eliminating electronic distractions during class and lab. While we will actively use computer resources in class and lab, it is strongly recommended that students focus on course material and minimize distractions from e-mail and social networking sites.

## MAKE-UP EXAM POLICY

Make-up exams or assignment/homework problems will not be given for unexcused absences. An acceptable excuse (meeting guidelines from the UF handbook) must be submitted to be eligible for a make-up exam.

## IMPORTANT GENERAL NOTICE TO STUDENTS

**Academic Honesty:**

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University."

**UF Counseling Services:**

The University of Florida provides excellent resources on campus for students having personal problems or seeking additional career and academic assistance to help them realize their full potential. These resources include:

1. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling;
2. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling;
3. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling;
4. Career Resources Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.

**Software Use:**

All faculty, staff and students of the University are required 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.

**General computer guidelines**

For this course you will need to have access to Microsoft Excel. You will need to install the Solver function and the analysis tool-pack (both free). You will also need to install pop-tools (www.poptools.org, also free) and install Program MARK (http://warnercnr.colostate.edu/~gwhite/mark/mark.htm).

If you use a Mac, you will need to use BootCamp or Parallels to run PC versions of Excel so you can use Poptools. Windows operating systems and Microsoft Office can be obtained very cheaply for students. I discuss this in the link below.

If you plan on using the computers in the computer lab where the course will be taught, you will need to know your Gatorlink Username and ID to log-in to the computers. It is also a good idea to bring a USB flash drive (aka jump drive) that you can save your files to and take them with you from the lab. These drives are widely available at electronics stores, UF bookstore, or online starting at about $5.

I have drafted simple guidelines for WEC undergraduates related to basic computing skills, computer software and hardware discounts available to you as a UF student, and a few thoughts on Mac vs. PC for use in this course. These guidelines can be found here:

http://www.wec.ufl.edu/undergrad/computer_policy.php

**UF Guidelines**
The official UF computing guidelines which relate to all aspects of hardware, software, and network information at UF are available here

http://training.helpdesk.ufl.edu/computing.shtml

The following is the official UF policy on the student computer requirement:

Access to and on-going use of a computer is required for all students to complete their degree programs successfully. The University of Florida expects each student entering the junior year, as well as each student new to the university, to acquire computer hardware and software appropriate to his or her degree program. Competency in the basic use of a computer is a requirement for graduation. Class assignments may require use of a computer,

academic advising and registration can be done by computer, and official university correspondence is often sent via e-mail.

**A note about the use and sharing of computer code**

In this course you are expected to complete your own labs, including building your own spreadsheet or other computer program to help you complete the analyses and provide the information needed for writing the lab report. Writing your own program or spreadsheet is a key part of the lab assignment. Please do not attempt to re-use someone else's computer code. In several labs, you will be working with a unique data set such that, while it may appear to be similar to someone else's in the course, in reality it is different. When I grade the assignments, I would know that you did not use your code and data, and I would also know whose code and data you used. Re-use of someone else's code and data would constitute a violation of the academic honesty policy for both parties and result in a zero on that assignment. Bottom line, do your own work.