WIS 2040: WILDLIFE ISSUES IN A CHANGING WORLD

Web Section 006A

Summer A 2012

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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](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 required** for all web sections.

2. Lecture Guide – A lecture guide can be downloaded from the [Sakai site](http://lss.at.ufl.edu) under Resources. The lecture guide is a companion to the course packet and 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.

**GRADES**

Your grade will be based on (A) 2 on-line Exams; (B) and 4 on-line Exercises. To take either of these or to use self-test under the Topic Practice Choice or Reading Practice Choice questions, first open the software and verify on the first page that you are "Connected". This is a small box on the left side of the screen. If it says "Not connected" close the software, login to your internet provider and then re-open the software. (Note: In our experience, this is mostly a problem for students on the UF campus who are not logged into UFW). Assuming you are connected, click on "Assessment" (Upper right side of the screen) to open the Assessment Window (Upper left of screen with the software open). You may then go to the white menu bar at the top of the page and select Topic Practice (or Reading Practice) Choice Questions (to test yourself on the material in the presentations and to complete the
extra credit assignment); or On-line Exercise (for the exercises and the exams). After making your selection, click "Start" upper left of the window.

When clicking on **Practice Choice Questions** (either the Topics or Readings) you will be given 10 questions each time you click "Start". This is set up to help you study the material. After answering each set of 10 click "Grade" and then check the "Items remaining" box at the top of the page. As you go through a topic’s questions the software keeps track of how many you have answered correctly. When all have been answered correctly at least once, the box will say "Items remaining 0". **None of the topic testbanks has just 10 questions; all have many more.**

For the exercises and the exam, after clicking "start", you will be prompted for a code (this will be 3 capital letters, and these will be posted under Resources on Sakai (at http://lss.at.ufl.edu). Then you simply enter the code, click "Start" and answer the questions. When finished click "Grade" (same button as "Start" it toggles).

**A. Exams (40 points)** There will be two regularly scheduled, multiple-choice exams and each will be worth 20 points. Each exam will consist of 50 questions and will include questions that are not included in the topic practice choice testbanks.

**B. On-line Exercises (60 points)** There will be four on-line work sheets or exercises, each will be worth 15 points. Each of these exercises will have 50 questions, and students will have 60 minutes to complete them. Questions for these work sheets will be drawn from the topic practice choice question testbanks in the software packet.

**C. Extra Credit (5 points)** – Students who answer **all the questions** (not just the first 10) in each of the 18 Topic Practice Choice question testbanks and **submit them correctly** will receive this extra credit.
Coverage for Exams:

Exam I (Available May 31-June 1 11:59 PM) will cover lecture material (Lecture guide sections 1-12), Course Software Topics 1-9, Reference Chapter *Wildlife In America*).

Exam 2 (Available June 18 - June 19 11:59 PM)) 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).

Optional Final (June 21 only, must be completed by 11:59 PM) – The cumulative optional final exam may be used to substitute for Exam 1 or 2.

Coverage for Exercises:

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

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

**Exercises 1 & 2 due by 11:59 PM Friday June 1, 2012**

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

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

**Exercises 3 & 4 due by 11:59 PM Wed - Week 6 (June 20, 2012**

Studying for the Exams, Exercises, and Extra credit

The topic presentations are found under the Presentation button on the left side of the screen when you first open the software. Note that the presentations are visual and have audio as well (the audio button is located at the top of the screen of each
slide in each presentation). The exercises consist of questions based on the material in these presentations. The questions are drawn from the topic practice choice question testbanks.

**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. Do not take each exercise more times than needed.

Exams are one-shot affairs, so make sure you have studied before you take them.

**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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>&gt;89.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>85 - 89.4999</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 - 84.4999</td>
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<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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<td>D</td>
<td>60 - 64.4999</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>&lt; 60</td>
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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>
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/