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WBIO 105.01: Wildlife and People

David E. Naugle

University of Montana - Missoula, david.naugle@umontana.edu

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WBIO 105 Wildlife & People
Fall 2009 Syllabus for 3 Credits

Professor: Dr. David Naugle, Forestry 309, PH: x5364
Office hours by email appointment

Class meets 11:10 AM - Noon MWF

This course qualifies as a General Education course under
Perspective 6 Natural Science

No required text for this course. Selected required readings and PowerPoint presentations will be made available on course website.

Course Description & Purpose: This course is designed for students (non-wildlife majors) interested in learning about the interactions of wildlife and people in today's society. In this course, students will be introduced to ecological principles on the population, community and ecosystem levels. Students will engage the scientific method, understand how to ask scientific questions, and embrace rigor and uncertainty in science. We will apply our knowledge of wildlife science to wildlife management issues, assess human impacts on wildlife populations, and investigate ways that wildlife and people live together.

Student Learning Goals and Objectives

1. Understand the historic and contemporary issues in wildlife science and management in Montana and in western North America
2. Learn principles of the scientific method and the difference between science and advocacy in decision-making
3. Understand how scientific investigations are conducted and implications of science in management of wildlife resources
4. Identify with and understand the role that society plays in the use and conservation of Montana's wildlife habitats and populations
5. Develop a knowledge base that will enable you to critically evaluate societal positions in natural resource management and conservation

In accordance with the mission of The University of Montana- Missoula, these objectives are to develop competent and humane individuals who are informed, ethical, literate, and engaged citizens of local and global communities. Students should become acquainted with issues facing contemporary society, participate in the creative arts, develop an understanding of science and technology, cultivate an appreciation of the humanities, and examine the history of different American and global cultures. Upon completion of the

general education requirements students should be able to articulate ideas verbally and in writing, understand and critically evaluate tangible and abstract concepts, and employ mathematical and other related skills appropriate to a technologically focused society.

<u>Examinations</u>	<u>Points Possible</u>	<u>% of Total Grade</u>
Exam I	100	33.3%
Exam II	100	33.3%
Final Exam	<u>100</u>	<u>33.3%</u>
	Total points 300*	100.0%

Grades calculated as a percentage (points received/300) correspond to the scale:
90%+ = A; 89-80% = B; 79-70% = C; 69-60% = D; 59% or less = F

Testing: Lecture exams may consist of a mixture of multiple-choice, true-false, short answer and essay questions. Failure to take an exam during the regularly scheduled *time without 1-week prior notification to the instructor and an excused absence* will result in a zero. Scheduling of make-up exams must be completed within 1 week of your return and is the sole responsibility of the student. Make-up exams will be essay questions. Each of three exams will cover approximately a third of the course material. There is no guarantee of extra credit opportunities, but 1 or 2 may arise during the semester (as announced). If you are late for a test, you may take the exam as long as all students taking the test are still present; once the first student has completed the test and left, no new tests will be distributed—no extra time will be allotted.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is not recorded in lecture because your desire to learn about wildlife will dictate your presence. In the unlikely event that a student has poor attendance, I will speak with you individually. Students are responsible on exams for all information presented in lectures, readings, guest presentations and films.

Academic Dishonesty: Trust between student and instructor is of paramount importance in academic settings. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in the classroom. Students found cheating will be punished to the fullest extent that University policy permits.

Course Outline

DATES TOPICS

INTRODUCTORY CONCEPTS

Aug 31	Introduction and syllabus
Sept 2	The basics: who owns wildlife?
4	The basics: who pays for wildlife?
7	Labor Day Holiday
9	We're not all game wardens: the wildlife profession
11	History of wildlife management
14	Back from the Brink: Wildlife in Montana (AWWI in MSP)
16	Wildlife functions and values

THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD

18	Advocacy versus science
21	The scientific method and uncertainty
23	Ecological ethics
25	Applications of real research to problem-solving
28	Commercialization and propagation of wildlife
30	TEST NUMBER #1

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS

Oct 2	Wildlife and People: The habitat connection!
5	On a wing and a prayer: the decline of forest birds
7	Managing wildlife habitats: winners and losers
9	Hunting: Society's view of a management tool
12	Wildlife and disease

POPULATION CONCEPTS

14	The structure of wildlife populations
16	Evaluating populations
19	Population fluctuations
21	What limits populations: carrying capacity constraints
23	Populations and wildlife management
26	TEST NUMBER #2 (ND meetings start)
28	Elk population dynamics
30	Grant Creek Elk: an example near Missoula

COMMUNITY CONCEPTS

Nov	2	Succession and natural disturbance
	4	Evolution and adaptations
	6	Speciation, extinction and biodiversity
	9	Keystones and species interactions
	11	Veteran's Day
	13	Endangered animals and ecosystems
	16	Endangered Species Act: why do we have it?
	18	ESA current examples

ECOSYSTEM AND GLOBAL CONCEPTS

	20	Exotic species I
	23	Exotic species II
	25	Thanksgiving Holiday
	27	Thanksgiving Holiday
	30	Can we restore ecosystems?
Dec	2	Current wildlife research (BLM Research Workshop Miles City)
	4	Wildlife Research: Sage-grouse and energy development
	7	Wildlife Research continued
	9	What can I do on local, regional, and global scales?
	11	Review and evaluations
	14	Finals week begins

Final is scheduled for 8-10 AM Wednesday December 16th