

1-2003

BIOL 201.01: Montana Wildlife

Craig Stafford

University of Montana - Missoula

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Montana Wildlife (Biology 201)

Spring 2003 – Tu/Th 12:10-1:30

Instructor: Craig Stafford

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Office: Health Sciences Building 203

Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30 - 3:30 or Thursdays by appointment

Course Format

We will focus on the more commonly observed vertebrate species of Montana. My goal is to introduce you to the wealth of fascinating life history information so that you will gain a basic understanding of the identifying characteristics of a given species, its geographic and habitat distribution, what it eats, and what it does on a year-round basis. We will also discuss the process by which animals come to look the way they do and do the things they do (natural selection), their evolutionary history, the habitats that support these animals, and some of the prominent issues in wildlife conservation. We will cover some of the most commonly observed species in each of five vertebrate groups (mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians) and one invertebrate group (aquatic insects). We will have numerous guest speakers throughout the course. The general goal of the guest lectures is to provide a bit of review on some of the groups we've covered, and to introduce some more detailed, research oriented material on Montana wildlife.

Reading Assignments & Library Reserve

Reading assignments will be announced in lecture, and will be placed on library reserve and/or e-reserve (accessed from the library's web page). In addition, some materials from lecture (particularly pictures) will be placed on e-reserve for review. To access e-reserve go to www.lib.umt.edu/resources.htm and click on **Reserve Materials**. Under instructor scroll down to **UM: Stafford, Craig** and hit **Search**. Hit **E-Items**. The password is: **varmits**.

Text

There is no required text for the course. Those interested in review or additional study of Montana wildlife will find the following books useful. I think the mammal book will be a worthwhile purchase for the class, but you will be able to get by without it. I have not ordered these books through the University Bookstore.

Mammals of the Rocky Mountains by Fisher, Pattie, and Hartson

A Field Guide to Montana Fishes by Dave Books (revised by Holton and Johnson)

Birds of North America Western Region by Fred Alsop III

Aquatic Entomology The Fishermen's and Ecologists' Illustrated Guide to Insects and Their Relatives by Patrick McCafferty

Grading and Exam Policy

Your grade will be based entirely on four tests (three midterms and a final). All four tests will be equally weighted, but only the final will be cumulative. I will drop your lowest test score and average the remaining three to determine your final grade. If you miss an exam, your final score will be based on your remaining three exams. No make up exams will be given. I will deviate from this grading scheme only under exceptional and documented (doctors notes, etc.) circumstances. If you are doing exceptionally well after the third midterm, then you may opt to skip the final. All exams will be in multiple-choice format. Dates are on the schedule - if you enroll, you agree to take exams on these dates and times. I will provide sample questions before the first exam.

Drops, Other Changes, and Pass Fail Policies

University policies on drops, adds, changes of grade option, or change to audit status are described on p. 19 of the 2002-2003 University of Montana Catalog. See the course schedule for important drop/add dates, and the Spring Semester 2003 Class Schedule back cover for other important dates. Students should specifically note that after March 10 any changes generally will not be approved. Changes after March 10 may be requested by petition, but the petition **MUST** be accompanied by documentation of **extenuating circumstances**. Requests to drop a course or change the grade basis to benefit a student's grade point average will not be approved. **Students taking the class pass/fail will need an average of 70% to pass the class.**

Montana Wildlife Schedule (Tentative)

Date	Day	Lecture	Subject
28-Jan	Tue	1	Course Overview
30-Jan	Thurs	2	Scientific Method, Natural Selection, Vertebrate Evolution
4-Feb	Tue	3	Terrestrial Habitats, Hooved Mammals
6-Feb	Thurs	4	Dan Pletscher-Cervids Populations in Montana
11-Feb	Tue	5	Hooved Mammals continued, Rabbits and Pikas
13-Feb	Thurs	6	To Be Announced
14-Feb	Fri		<i>Last day to drop without receiving W on transcript- all drops after February 14 must be authorized by instructor</i>
18-Feb	Tue	7	Bears, Weasels
20-Feb	Thurs	8	Chris Servheen: Biology and Management of Bears in MT
25-Feb	Tue		Exam 1
27-Feb	Thurs	9	Cats and Dogs, Small Mammals
4-Mar	Tue	10	Small Mammals
6-Mar	Thurs	11	Kerry Foresman: Mustelid and Bat Research
10-Mar	Mon		<i>Last day to drop - drops from Feb 15 to Mar 10 must be authorized by instructor and will receive W on transcript</i>
11-Mar	Tue	12	Denver Holt: Adaptations in Owls
13-Mar	Thurs	13	Dave Naugle: Wetland and Waterfowl Dynamics in Montana
18-Mar	Tue	14	Birds of Prey
20-Mar	Thurs	15	Waterfowl, Upland Game Birds
25-Mar	Tue		Spring Break
27-Mar	Thurs		Spring Break
1-Apr	Tue	16	Reptiles and Amphibians
3-Apr	Thurs		Exam 2
8-Apr	Tue	17	Bryce Maxwell: Montana Amphibians and Reptiles
10-Apr	Thurs	18	Aquatic Habitats, Aquatic Insects
15-Apr	Tue	19	Fish - Salmonids
17-Apr	Thurs	20	Dave Schmetterling: Fisheries Issues in the Clark Fork
22-Apr	Tue	21	Fish - Non Salmonid Species
24-Apr	Thurs	22	Andy Sheldon?
29-Apr	Tue	23	Introduced Species & Flathead Lake Case Study
1-May	Thurs		Exam 3
6-May	Tue	24	Land Use and Wildlife
8-May	Thurs	25	To Be Announced
13-May	Tue		Final Exam @ 8-10 am!!