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BIOO 101N.01: Survey of Montana Wildlife and Habitats

Craig P. Stafford

University of Montana - Missoula, craig.stafford@mso.umt.edu

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Survey of Montana Wildlife & Habitats: BIOC 101N

CRN 72429, Section 01, 3 credits, Mon 6:10 pm - 9:00 pm, ISB Room #110

Instructor: Craig Stafford

E-mail: craig.stafford@mso.umt.edu (best way to contact)

Office: Health Sciences 111

Office Hours: Mon 3:10 pm to 5:00 pm or by appointment (Tue & Thu afternoons are good bets)

Course Content & Approach

My goal is to introduce students to the natural history of Montana's prominent vertebrates, and to use these animals to illustrate fundamental concepts in animal ecology, physiology, evolution, and conservation. I take a taxonomic approach to foster a more holistic understanding of evolution and natural history. We will cover some of the more commonly observed species in each of five vertebrate groups (mammals, fishes, reptiles, amphibians, and perhaps a few birds) and one invertebrate group (aquatic insects). The focus, however, will be on mammals (about 60% of materials). We will have a few (~3) guest speakers during the course. The general goal of the guest lectures is to provide a bit of review on some of the groups we have covered, and to introduce some more detailed research and/or management material on selected species or issues.

Texts & Web Resources

- Mammals of Montana, 2012, 2nd Edition, by Kerry Foresman

I do not recommend the first edition for this class.

- Amphibians and Reptiles of Montana, 2004, First Edition, by Werner, Maxell, Hendricks, and Flath

I recommend this book, but it is out of print and not required.

- <http://fieldguide.mt.gov/>

If you do not get the Amphibians etc. book, this is an especially important resource.

Moodle

Readings that are not in your texts will be posted on Moodle as well as key graphics from each lecture: moodle.umt.edu. To print PowerPoint slides using the old version: under **file** hit **print**, select **scale to fit paper**, then under **print what** select **handouts**. Newer version: under **file** hit **print** then in **print what** hit **handouts**. In either version of PowerPoint six slides per page works well.

Grading and Exam Policy

Your grade will be based entirely on four tests: three midterms and a cumulative, mandatory final. I will drop your lowest of the three midterm scores and average the remaining two. If you miss one of the three midterms, you forgo dropping your lowest score. You cannot drop the final. I do not give make up exams. I will deviate from this grading scheme only under exceptional and documented (in writing) circumstances (doctors notes, university sanctioned events which require attendance like games for athletes, etc). You should always talk to me *before* you miss the exam if at all possible. It is up to you to provide the necessary written documentation for me to verify your absence was legitimate. I will be using the +/- grading system.

-Exam dates are on the schedule: if you enroll, you agree to take exams on these dates and times

-Grading breakdown: 2 midterms @ 30% = 60%, 1 final @ 40% = 40%

Drops, Adds, and Other Academic & Disability Information

The University's *Academic Policies and Procedures* (drops, adds, and other academic policies) are described at <http://www.umt.edu/registrar/students/dropadd.php>. The Academic Calendar can be found at <http://www.umt.edu/registrar/PDF/ImportantDatesFall2014.pdf>. Information on the student conduct code is at http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php. Students with disabilities can find relevant information at <http://www.umt.edu/dss/>.