

Syllabus: WILD 370 Wildlife Habitat Conservation & Management, Spring 2016 – 3 Credits



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Office Hours are 13:00-14:00 T/Thur, or by appointment* (see email policy)

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Office hours by appointment*, SH108

Lecture times:

12:10 – 1:00 PM Tuesday and Thursday (FOR 106)

Prerequisites:

Ecology (BIOE 370/371*) or equivalent upper-division ecology course, and \geq junior standing in Wildlife Biology. * I will enforce pre-requisites.

Laboratory (field trip) times:

12:00 – ~5:00 pm Thur only on specified dates in the semester. Students must be able to attend all field trips, no exceptions.

Course Objectives:

To gain familiarity with the theoretical importance of habitat to wildlife in terrestrial ecosystems, and to gain proficiency with the application of theory to wildlife habitat conservation issues. Practical hands on experience will be gained on field trips during the semester where students will be expected to be able to apply theories to practical conservation issues in Montana.

Required Readings:

Assigned readings from textbooks, scientific papers, and other readings will be posted on blackboard PRIOR to class – students are expected to have read the readings and be prepared to discuss them in class.

Course Website:

MOODLE [UM Online](#). Students will need an active UM NetID to access the Moodle class webpage. Take the UM Online 101 course to learn more about Moodle.

Final Exam Time:

8:00 - 10:00, Monday May, 9 2016. Note: final exam times are YOUR responsibility to confirm and conflicts need to be taken into account during registration. If you have a conflict, it is your responsibility to change your schedule or talk to professors early. No extra exams will be scheduled to accommodate conflicts after the last drop date. See here: [Final Exam Schedule Spring 2016](#)

Draft Schedule

Date	Day	Approximate Lecture Topic	Assignments	Labs
26-Jan	Tues	Course Introduction		
28-Jan	Thur	Road Ecology: Division Street		No Lab
2-Feb	Tues	Defining Wildlife Habitat		
4-Feb	Thur	Niche Theory		No Lab
9-Feb	Tues	Habitat & the Niche		
11-Feb	Thur	Theories of Habitat Selection		No Lab
16-Feb	Tues	Habitat Selection	Report: Habitat definition	
18-Feb	Thur	Guest Lecture		No Lab
23-Feb	Tues	Island Biogeography Theory		
25-Feb	Thur	MCTWS conference	Report: Island Biogeography	Lab 1: MTTWS
1-Mar	Tues	Guest Lecture	Lab 1 report due	
3-Mar	Thur	Habitat Fragmentation		Lab 2: Habitat Use computer lab
8-Mar	Tues	Road Ecology	Lab 2 report due	
10-Mar	Thur	Critical Habitat	Annotated bibliography	Lab 3: Habitat selection computer lab
15-Mar	Tues	MIDTERM	Lab 3 report due	
17-Mar	Thur	Guest Lecture		No lab
22-Mar	Tues			
24-Mar	Thur	Corridors and Connectivity		Lab 4: Hwy 93?
29-Mar	Tues	Modeling wildlife habitat	Lab 4 report due	
31-Mar	Thur	Modeling wildlife habitat		Lab 5: MPG?
5-Apr	Tues	Spring Break		
7-Apr	Thur	Spring Break		
12-Apr	Tues	Applying Habitat Models to Conservation	Lab 5 report due	
14-Apr	Thur	Forestry, Fire and Wildlife		Lab 6: Blackfoot challenge
19-Apr	Tues	Sage grouse initiative	Lab 6 report due	
21-Apr	Thur	Grizzly bear conservation		No Lab
26-Apr	Tues	Antelope habitat connectivity		
28-Apr	Thur	Student Presentations		Student presentations

Date	Day	Approximate Lecture Topic	Assignments	Labs 12:00 - 5:00
3-May	Tues	Habitat and Climate Change		
5-May	Thur	Student Presentations	Final Summary Paper Due	Student presentations 12:00 - 5:00
9-May	Mon	Final Exam 10:10 - 12:00 AM		

Grading:

Please note, this class is offered for traditional letter grade only, it is not offered under the credit/no credit option.

Category	Description	Marks	%
<u>Exams</u>	Midterm 1	50	17%
	Final Exam	75	25%
<u>Lab reports</u>	Lab reports	75	25%
<u>Review Topic</u>	Annotated Bibliography	25	8%
	Oral Presentation	50	17%
	Summary Paper	25	8%
		300	100%

Exams:

Exam(s) will be multiple choices, true-false, short answer and short essay questions. Course material in lectures, labs, and readings will be considered for all exams. The midterm exam will cover all course content up to the class prior, and the final exam will be primarily weighted from material from the second half of the semester. But keep in mind that we will continue to build on the theoretical concepts discussed in the first half throughout! Time for exams will be allotted as the regular course time, 12:10-1:00PM, or Final Exam time, and no extra time will be given to take exams. Students arriving at a scheduled exam AFTER the first person to finish the test has left the room will not be allowed to take the test and will be assigned a ZERO. Failure to take an exam during the regularly scheduled time will result in a grade of ZERO being assigned. Make-up exams will be scheduled only given documentation of a valid excused absence (see attendance below) 1 week prior to the regularly scheduled exam time.

Lecture Format:

Lectures will be primarily PowerPoint based and made available on the course website AFTER lectures for downloading and reviewing. However, additional material will be covered not contained in PowerPoint presentations and will be considered part of testable class content. Additional materials will include class discussions, films, discussion of current events, and questions.

Lab Format:

During Spring 2015, there will be 6 scheduled labs. The first lab is a field trip to the Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society Conference here in Missoula February 25. The next two will be computer labs in the Stone Hall 107 computer labs March 3 and March 10. The class will be divided into 2 sections for 2 hour

computer labs each day, with lab reports based on the computer habitat analyses. The next 3 labs, March 24, March 31 and April 14 will be field trips to areas of western MT. For these field trips, we will promptly at the start of class time (12:00) from the Forestry parking lot, regardless of inclement weather. There will be a total of 8 'lab' reports from these 6 field trips with 2 1-page reviews of founding theories of habitat conservation (niche theory and island biogeography) based on the first month of lectures as well.

Participation in all field trips is mandatory and students are expected to schedule all labs for the allotted time, get off work, make alternate arrangements for other courses, etc. etc. FIELD TRIPS ARE A KEY PART OF THE WILDLIFE BIOLOGY EXPERIENCE!. An absence from a single field trip is an automatic 10 pt deduction (2.5%) from your final grade.

Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management Review Topic – deadlines in schedule.

In this assignment, students will pick a topic of wildlife habitat conservation to review in written and oral presentation form. This is an example to dive into something that really interests you about wildlife habitat conservation, read as many papers and books you can about it, and then put it all together in an oral presentation and short written summary. **The only rules are that the species (or community of species) should be terrestrial mammals, birds, or herptiles, and must address aspects of wildlife habitat ecology and conservation.** We will spend 1 lecture going over examples of review/syntheses papers and example topics. There are several components to the review topic that will be completed throughout the semester including completion of an annotated bibliography, an oral presentation and a 5-page final summary paper. Oral presentations will be scheduled during class & lab meeting times on April 28 and May 5 from 12:00 – 5:00 pm. These will be intensive 'mini-conferences'. Coffee and snacks (donuts) will be provided.

General Course Policies

Attendance Policy:

Attendance will not be recorded in lecture. Students are individually responsible for all information presented in lectures, guest lectures, readings and field trips. No make-up exams will be scheduled. In the case of medical or family emergency I will work with the student individually in terms of rescheduling exam times etc. Formal health care documentation will be required for legitimate emergencies. Please acquaint yourself with the specific code in the [UM Catalog](#).

Student Conduct Code Statement:

Trust between student and instructor is of paramount importance in academic settings. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in the classroom, and students found cheating will be punished to the full extent that University policy permits. The University of Montana expects all students to conduct themselves as honest, responsible, and law-abiding members of the academic community and to respect the rights of other students, members of the faculty and staff and the public to use, enjoy and participate in the University programs and facilities.

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#).

Plagiarism:

Paraphrasing or quoting another's work without explicitly citing the source is plagiarism and a form of academic misconduct. Even inadvertent or unintentional misuse of appropriation of another's work (such as relying heavily on source material that is not expressly acknowledged) is considered plagiarism. If you have any questions about using and citing sources, you are expected to ask for clarification. This includes websites like Google and Wikipedia, although note that not all information retrieved (in fact most!) from such sites is not peer-reviewed, and thus not often scientifically valid. If I determine evidence for plagiarism, the assignment will receive a zero and an investigation will be initiated as per UM policy. I take a particularly dim view of plagiarism and will seek the most severe penalties, under the student conduct code. Students sanctioned for plagiarism will have a permanent record on their academic file.

Credit for Work from Another Class:

Submission of papers that were written for credit in another class is not permitted, regardless of whether the subject matter is appropriate (as per the University of Montana Student Conduct Code). In other words, you are expected to turn in original work for this course. If you have any questions, whatsoever, it is better to speak with the professor or teaching assistant before you get a zero for an assignment.

Mobile Phone Policy:

Mobile phone use is disruptive to both your own, your fellow students learning, and my teaching. No use of mobile phones will be permitted in class, and ESPECIALLY NOT on field trips. Student caught using mobile phones for texting, phoning, browsing the internet will be excused immediately from class for the remainder of the lecture. After 3 such incidents, I will start by deducting one letter grade from the student's grade.

Email Policy:

Email is perhaps the world's most banal form of communication, except text messaging, which seems destined to erode any last remnants of skill in writing. I expect emails to the teaching assistant and I from students to be composed professionally with proper sentence and English writing style with no spelling mistakes, a CLEAR subject line that CLEARLY identifies the COURSE CODE [i.e., Subject: **WBIO 370 question from student X**], and a clear, concise question. Because of email proliferation, professors often get >200 ill-formed and unnecessary emails a day, wasting everyone's precious time.

Students with Disabilities Statement

- [UM's Disability Services for Students Office](#) and [EO/AA office](#)
 - Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). "Reasonable" means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications.

Student Conduct Code Statement

- A memo issued by the Provost's Office in 2005 asked that all syllabi include the following statement referencing the Student Conduct Code:
 - All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#).
 - See detailed comments above specifically regarding plagiarism.

Course Withdrawal Deadlines Statement

Important Dates Restricting Opportunities to Drop a Course Spring 2014:

Date	Description	Deadline
To 15 th instructional day	Students can drop classes on Cyberbear with refund	February 12 = last day
16 th to 45 th instructional day	A class drop requires a form with instructor and advisor signature, a \$10 fee from registrar's office, student will receive a 'W' on transcript, no refund.	February 13 through March 28
Beginning 46 th instructional day	Students are only allowed to drop a class under very limited and unusual circumstances. Not doing well in the class, deciding you are concerned about how the class grade might affect your GPA, deciding you did not want to take the class after all, and similar reasons are not among those limited and unusual circumstances. If you want to drop the class for these sorts of reasons, make sure you do so by the end of the 45 th instructional day of the semester. Requests to drop must be signed by the instructor, advisor, and Associate Dean and a \$10 fee applies.	March 29 – May 6