

Syllabus: WILD 180 - Careers in Wildlife Biology Spring 2020 – 2 Credits

Instructors:

Dr. Chad Bishop, Forestry 312, Phone: 406-243-4374, Email: chad.bishop@umontana.edu
Office Hours are Mon 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM in Forestry 312, or by appointment

Tara Meyer (TA), Email: tara.meyer@umontana.edu

Office Hours are Tues 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM and Wed 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM in Clapp Building 426

Learning Assistants (LAs):

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Lecture times and location:

10:00 AM – 10:50 AM – Tuesday (T) and Thursday (R) – Liberal Arts 11

Course Objectives:

1. Learn about the wildlife biology profession and associated career opportunities.
2. Develop a basic understanding of:
 - a. the historical origins and development of wildlife management and conservation in North America and how it ties to other natural resource professions;
 - b. fundamental concepts underlying wildlife biology, management, and conservation;
 - c. techniques used in wildlife research and management; and
 - d. future challenges and opportunities in wildlife and natural resource conservation.

Course Website:

MOODLE [UM Online](#). When you log-in to Moodle, you will be able to find and access our course website (WILD 180 – Careers in Wildlife Biology). There is an online Moodle 101 course to assist you in learning the basics of navigating and using Moodle.

Text Book/Readings:

- **Required**
 - **Textbook – *A Sand County Almanac and Sketches Here and There* by Aldo Leopold.**
 - You can purchase book through the bookstore or online
 - Readings as assigned on the course Moodle website during the semester.
- **Recommended** but not required for the class (**available through library**)
 - *State Wildlife Management and Conservation* by Thomas J. Ryder (Editor)
 - *Becoming a Wildlife Professional* by Scott E. Henke and Paul R. Krausman (Editors)
 - *Essential Readings in Wildlife Management and Conservation* by Paul R. Krausman and Bruce D. Leopold (Editors)

- Suggest you read at some point during your education
 - *Wolf Wars* by Hank Fischer
 - *Man and Nature* by George Perkins Marsh
 - *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson
 - *The Tragedy of the Commons* by Garret Hardin
 - *The Diversity of Life* by E.O. Wilson
 - *On Becoming a Biologist*, Second Edition, by John Janovy, Jr.

Use of TOP HAT Web-based Interactive Learning Resource:

All students are required to purchase a subscription to [TOP HAT](#) for this course. The total cost of the subscription for one semester is \$30. Top Hat is a web-based resource to facilitate interaction during lecture. We will also use Top Hat to track attendance and class participation. You can link to this particular course in Top Hat using the following course code: **951223**. To use Top Hat during class, you will need a smart phone, tablet, laptop or similar device so you can pull up the website during class. If you do not have one of these devices, please contact one of the instructors.

Lecture Schedule and Classroom Learning Environment:

A lecture will be delivered each class period by the professor, teaching assistant, or a guest lecturer. Lectures will not be recorded. Lectures will be based on a Powerpoint presentation, which will be made available to students after the lecture via the course website and TopHat. On rare occasion, a guest lecturer may opt not to provide her/his Powerpoint to students, which will be made clear to students at the beginning of the lecture. **Students may be tested on all information contained within Powerpoint presentations and any other information presented during lectures.** Class periods will also include small group discussions facilitated by the Teaching Assistant and Learning Assistants. The purpose of these discussions is to enhance classroom learning by providing students the opportunity to engage with their peers in dialogue on the topics covered in class. **To allow time for quality classroom discussions, not all material contained within Powerpoint presentations will be formally presented during class time.** Thus, students will need to study all material contained within Powerpoint presentations for each exam, regardless of whether the given material was specifically presented during class.

The tentative schedule for the course is provided below. **Topics are subject to change.**

14 January	Course Overview, Introductory Lecture
16 January	Historical Development of Wildlife Management and Conservation in North America
21 January	Guest Lecture on American Indian Wildlife Management: Jennifer Harrington, UM Native American Natural Resource Program Coordinator.
23 January	Establishment of the Wildlife Management Profession and the Environmental Movement in North America
28 January	A Sand County Almanac and Sketches Here and There – Part I

30 January	A Sand County Almanac and Sketches Here and There – Part II
4 February	Present-day Wildlife and Natural Resource Issues
6 February	Tara Meyer lecture on Wolf Management in Washington
11 February	Careers in Wildlife Biology
13 February	Connecting Careers in Wildlife with other Natural Resource Professions Assignment 1 Due
18 February	Tie Up Loose Ends and Review for Exam 1
20 February	Exam 1
25 February	Conserving and Managing Wildlife and Natural Resources – Who does what?
27 February	Roles and Structures of State and Federal Wildlife Agencies and NGO's
3 March	Capture & Monitoring Techniques used to Study and Manage Wildlife
5 March	Key Concepts for Managing and Conserving Wildlife Populations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Population Rate of Change, Carrying Capacity, Density Dependence, Limitation
10 March	Guest Lecture: Serra Hoagland – US Forest Service, Biologist and Liaison to Salish Kootenai College; Chair of The Wildlife Society's Native Peoples Wildlife Management Working Group
12 March	Guest Lecture: Kelly Stoner, Bison Program Lead, Wildlife Conservation Society
17 March	Spring Break – No Class
19 March	Spring Break – No Class
24 March	Applying Key Concepts: Management of Harvested Species
26 March	Applying Key Concepts: Conservation of At-Risk Species Assignment 2 Due
31 March	Tie Up Loose Ends and Review for Exam 2
2 April	Exam 2

7 April	Guest Lecture: Tom Bansak, Flathead Lake Biological Station
9 April	ESA Overview and Contemporary Issues
14 April	Walking the Fine Line: Science vs Advocacy ESSAYS DUE!
16 April	Guest Lecture
21 April	Guest Lecture
23 April	Future Conservation Challenges
28 April	Motivations to Pursue a Career in Wildlife Assignment 3 Due
30 April	Course Wrap-up, Review for Final Exam, and Course Evaluations
8 May	FINAL EXAM – 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Exams: Two midterm exams (February 20 and April 2) and a Final exam (May 8).

The exams will be multiple choice and true-false. Students will take the exams in class using TopHat. Any students who are unable to access the exam through TopHat will be provided a hard copy exam and will mark their answers directly on the exam sheet. **Exams will focus heavily on course material presented in lectures and associated Powerpoint presentations, but may also include material associated with assignments and assigned readings.** Exam 1 (Feb 20) will cover course material from the beginning of the course through February 18 (i.e., all material covered in the class thus far). Exam 2 (Apr 2) will cover course material from February 25 through March 31 (i.e., all material covered in the class after the first exam). The Final exam (May 8) will be cumulative, covering course material presented throughout the entire course, but it will be weighted toward the material covered after April 2 (i.e., after the 2nd exam). Specifically, roughly one-half of the final exam will focus on material covered from the beginning of the course through March 31, and the other half of the final exam will focus on material covered during April 7 through April 30.

Time allotted for the first and second exams will be the same as the regular course time, 10:00 AM – 10:50 AM, and the exams will be given in the same room (Liberal Arts 11). Students will have up to 2 hours to take the final exam (8:00 AM – 10:00 AM), which will also be given in the same room (Liberal Arts 11). Students arriving at a scheduled exam (midterms and final) AFTER the first person to finish the exam has left the room will not be allowed to take the exam and will be assigned a ZERO. ***So don't oversleep or be late for any other reason!***

Make-up exams will be scheduled only when the professor is given documentation of a valid excused absence (see "Attendance Policy" below) PRIOR to the scheduled exam time.

Assignments:

There will be three assignments made throughout the course to enhance your learning of the course material. Assignments will be emailed to students, announced in class, and simultaneously posted on Moodle. **You will be expected to complete the assignments outside of class and submit them through Moodle on or before the assigned due date. In the event you encounter a problem uploading your assignment to Moodle, you may email the assignment to the instructors. Assignments turned in within 1 week after the due date will be deducted 50%. Assignments will not be accepted >1 week past the due date.** Each assignment is worth 3.33% of your grade in the course, or collectively, the assignments are worth 10% of your overall grade in the course. The three assignment descriptions and due dates are:

Assignment 1: Historic events and people in wildlife management/conservation – **Due February 13**

Assignment 2: Temporary and permanent jobs in wildlife biology – **Due March 26**

Assignment 3: Key concepts: carrying capacity – **Due April 28**

Essay:

All students are required to read A Sand County Almanac. As you read it, think about your personal connection to wildlife and natural resources and what brought you here to UM to pursue your selected major. You are required to write a 2.5–3 page essay on this connection. It can be about a single incident in your life or it can be a summary of life experiences that drew you to this point in time. The essay can and should be personal. It's our personal connections and foundations that ultimately make a career in wildlife biology or natural resource conservation so rewarding. In composing your essay, you must make reference to at least 2 passages from A Sand County Almanac that resonate with you and tie to your connection. You are encouraged to seek out the services of the UM Writing Center for assistance in writing your essay ([UM Writing Center](#)).

Your essay is due no later than April 14, although you can turn it in early. You should turn in your essay via Moodle.

Essay Grading: The essay is worth 10% of your overall grade in the course. Your essay will be graded according to how well it adheres to the requirements outlined above: 1) 2.5-3 pages in length, 2) references at least 2 passages from A Sand County Almanac, and 3) describes a meaningful personal connection to wildlife or natural resources. Essays will be further graded based on grammar, punctuation, spelling, and sentence structure. Students who complete a 2.5-3 page essay as described above with proper grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, and spelling will receive an A (≥90 %). Grades will be deducted accordingly for incorrect grammar and punctuation, misspelled words, poor sentence structure, failure to reference at least 2 passages from A Sand County Almanac, failure to meet 2.5-3 page length requirement, and/or a failure to describe a personal connection to wildlife or natural resources.

Course Grade:

This class is offered for traditional letter grade only (A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, F).

Your grade will be determined based on the following weighting of exams, assignments, and the essay:

Description	%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Assignments	10%
Essay	10%
Class participation	5%
Final	35%
Overall Grade	100%

General Course Policies

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend all class meetings. However, attendance is not mandatory; your desire to learn and do well in the course will dictate your presence. Also note above that 5% of your grade will be tied to class attendance. Students are individually responsible for all information presented in lectures, guest lectures, assigned readings, on the course Moodle website, and class assignments. It is especially important that you are present for exams. In the case of medical or other emergencies (e.g., legitimate, planned absences), I will work with the student individually in terms of rescheduling an exam time. Formal documentation will be required for legitimate emergencies that require a student to miss an exam.

Academic Dishonesty:

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 qualifies as academic misconduct. Students often misunderstand plagiarism, particularly when reporting information from the web or other digital sources. Anytime you extract information from another source for an assignment or paper, it is critical that you cite your source. If you report text verbatim, you must place the text in quotes and cite the source accordingly. We are less concerned with the format of your citations at this point than the fact that you attempt to appropriately reference the source.

Students with Disabilities:

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Disability Services for Students](#) (DSS). If you have a disability that may adversely affect your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommason 154 or call them at 406.243.2243. We will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate modification.

Dropping/Adding:

Drop/Add dates are posted at [Office of Registrar: Calendar](#).

Important Dates Regarding Opportunities to Drop a Course during Spring 2020 Semester:

Date	Description	Date Range
To 15 th instructional day	Students can drop classes on Cyberbear with refund	January 13 to February 3
16 th to 45 th instructional day	Drop requires instructor and advisor approvals (via Cyberbear), and there is a \$10 fee; student will receive a 'W' on transcript and no refund.	February 4 to March 24
46 th to last instructional day	Students are only allowed to drop a class under very limited and unusual circumstances. Concern over course grade is not an acceptable reason. Requests to drop must be approved by the instructor, advisor, and Dean and a \$10 fee applies. A WP or WF will appear on the student's transcript.	March 25 to May 1