Online delivery
This class is designed for students located on one of USU’s regional campuses. Students on the Logan campus should take WILD 4750 from Dr. Kari Veblen, offered each fall.

Credits: 3

Instructor
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Utah State University & Ecology Center, Dept. of Wildland Resources, BNR 161
5230 Old Main Hill, Logan, 84322 UT, USA

Welcome to WILD 4750! For this learning experience to be a success, please review the syllabus thoroughly. It has all the information you need to be successful in this course. If any part of the syllabus remains unclear, please e-mail me at aimee.tallian@usu.edu. Please note that all course materials will be posted on Canvas.
Course Description
This class is designed to train natural resource students in developing and implementing programs for the Inventory, Monitoring, and Assessment (IMA) of wildland ecosystems. The class will cover all phases of the monitoring process, from generating hypotheses and study design, to data collection and analysis, interpretation and reporting of results. Basic IMA techniques for sampling plant and wildlife populations will be introduced, with an emphasis on data analysis and interpretation. These skills underpin modern natural resource management and related fields, and will increase competitiveness for those seeking careers in biological conservation, wildlife management, fisheries, forestry, agriculture, etc. Individuals that have great difficulty with basic statistics and computing should not be discouraged, but will have to spend extra time working on the course material.

Course Objectives (in line with IDEA objectives)
Overall, my three main objectives are for you to:
1. Learn fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories. Specifically, students will understand major concepts in study design, data collection, and data analysis.
2. Learn to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)
3. Develop specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course. Specifically, student will develop their abilities to use basic resource management monitoring tools and methods, including study design and data analysis.

Prerequisites
WATS 2220 or BIOL 2220; MATH 1100 or higher (C-grade or better); STAT 2000 or STAT 3000 (C-grade or better); WILD 2400; and a prerequisite or co-requisite of WILD 3810 (applied Fall 2017)

Course Resources

Textbook

Canvas
Canvas is the Learning Management System that we will use for our course. You can log into Canvas at https://canvas.usu.edu/. Enter your username, which is your A#, and your password is your global password (the same one you use for Banner or Aggiemail). For a list of tutorials relating to Canvas, go to your canvas page, select support and “Canvas orientation for students”. We will be using Canvas’ Quiz, Assignment, and Announcement tools. The Discussion and Chat tools can be used amongst students to discuss labs and lectures, but should not be used to exchange results pertaining to lab assignments, quizzes, midterm or final exam.
Software
You will need Microsoft Office (mainly word and excel) to complete your lab assignments. You will also need to download R (https://www.r-project.org/) and RStudio (https://www.rstudio.com/home/) for programming purposes. I will provide information in canvas regarding how to download these.

Course Activities (please follow the proposed order)

Each week:

1. Lectures: will be posted on Canvas (one lecture per week) and will be 30-60 minutes long depending on the topic.

2. Guided Labs: will consist of computer-oriented sessions or videos designed to help solidify topics presented in the lecture. A guided lab can either be a short visual demonstration walking you through a statistical or data-related problem (30-60 minutes long) or a video displaying field work data collection techniques. These labs will sometimes be graded and your answers should be submitted online through canvas.

3. Readings: will be posted each week to deepen your understanding of topics presented in the lecture and lab. Reading materials should not be neglected since they will be used to design questions pertaining to lab assignments, quizzes, and the final exam.

Throughout the semester:
You will be required to complete multiple online quizzes throughout the semester. These quizzes will consist of approximately 10 to 20 multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching and (or) true/false questions based on lectures and labs. You will have one week to complete each quiz.

Assignments:
Graded assignments will be spread throughout the semester and each will pertain to the topic addressed that week.

Mid-term and Final exam:
There will be one mid-term but no final exam per se. For your final exam / assignment, you will have to design your own natural resource monitoring proposal, which will have to be submitted by the end of the semester. You are expected to work on your monitoring proposal throughout the semester.

Grading
You will be graded on lab assignments, quizzes spread throughout the semester, one mid-term exam and your monitoring proposal (relative weight to be announced at the beginning of the semester). All lab assignments, quizzes, mid-term and final paper must be turned in on time for full credit. You will have 1 week to return each lab assignment / quiz (i.e., posted on Monday at 8am, return by the following Monday at Midnight).
Exceptions will be granted only under the most stringent conditions, requiring official medical or university documentation. Otherwise late assignments and quizzes will be docked 50% of the grade for each day late. Your grade will be calculated as follows:

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**Course Policy**

**Feedback/Communication**
Please use the Discussion Board as much as possible. I will view the discussion board once a day and will answer questions as needed. I will use the Announcements page in Canvas to communicate changes to the course and other information each week. I strongly encourage the use of the Chat device available in Canvas to interact with your fellow students and create the classroom atmosphere that often lacks online. I will answer all questions you may have regarding course materials by e-mail (aimee.tallian@usu.edu) and will do my best to answer within 12 hours on weekdays. You will receive specific feedback on your Assignments in the form of text comments appended to your electronic submissions. If you experience a legitimate emergency that prevents you from completing required coursework on time, please let me know ASAP. Make sure you state the nature of the emergency when making such inquiries.

**Syllabus Changes:** This syllabus is subject to change. I will notify the class regarding all changes via the Announcement page on Canvas.

**Submitting Electronic Files:** Please name your assignment file using the following convention: labnumber_yourname (e.g. lab1_aimeetallian).

**University Policy**

**Accommodation:** The Americans with Disabilities Act states: "Reasonable accommodation will be provided for all persons with disabilities in order to ensure equal participation within the program. If a student has a disability that will likely require some accommodation by the instructor, the student must contact the instructor and document
the disability through the Disability Resource Center (797-2444), preferably during the first week of the course. Any request for special consideration relating to attendance, pedagogy, taking of examinations, etc., must be discussed with and approved by the instructor. In cooperation with the Disability Resource Center, course materials can be provided in alternative format, large print, audio, diskette, or Braille."

**Ethics:** All students are expected to perform in accordance with implicit and explicit honor codes of the College of Natural Resources and Utah State University. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated, and students caught violating the honor code will be subject to CNR/USU disciplinary procedures. Plagiarism includes knowingly "representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials." In accordance with USU’s policy “the penalties for plagiarism are severe and include warning or reprimand, grade adjustment, probation, suspension, expulsion, withholding of transcripts, denial or revocation of degrees, and referral to psychological counseling” To learn more about USU’s “Academic Integrity” and plagiarism policies: [http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=8&navoid=1572](http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=8&navoid=1572)

**‘Online’ classroom environment:** Discriminatory behavior related to a person’s age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, national origin, creed, religion, or disability is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Proper behavior for students prominently includes refraining from actions that disrupt class. To learn more about USU’s Student Code, see [http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=8&navoid=1572](http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=8&navoid=1572).

**Sexual Harassment:** Sexual harassment is defined by the Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as any "unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature." If you feel you are a victim of sexual harassment, you may talk to or file a complaint with the Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Office located in Old Main, Room 161, or call the AA/EEO Office at 797-1266.