WILD 2400 - Wildland Resource Techniques  
Fall 2020 (3 credits)

Course Schedule

Tuesdays 9:00 am-10:15 am (VSB 130) - 75-minute face-to-face lecture.

Thursdays 9:00 am-1:00 pm (VSB 130) - 4-hr field exercise or computer lab in which students will work independently or in groups of 3-10 students.

*8am Arrive Early Field Trip - September 30th 8am (TW Daniel School Forest)

Course description

Introduction to wildland techniques is required coursework for all undergraduates pursuing degrees in the Department of Wildland Resources (wildlife, range, forest, and conservation). Students will learn fundamental field, laboratory, and data management techniques which facilitate inventory, assessment, and monitoring of natural resources. Successful completion of field exercises will prepare students for seasonal technician work related to ecological research and land management. Data management and computing skills acquired will prepare students for upper division coursework related to specific WILD degree programs. (https://qcnr.usu.edu/wild/index#)

Instructor

Eric M. LaMalfa, Ph.D. (http://qcnr.usu.edu/directory/lamalfa_eric)

*Please contact me through the canvas inbox (https://usu.instructure.com/conversations) rather than via e-mail.

Office hours (Zoom): Monday 1 - 3pm or by appointment
https://usu-edu.zoom.us/j/6477287558?pwd=STFoMzg1WIgxOU0mUjBvMC9mVEtIZz09

Allysia Hammond (MoER, TA)

Contact me through the canvas inbox (https://usu.instructure.com/conversations) rather than via e-mail.

Office hours (Zoom): xxxxx or by appointment

Andi Stewart (https://qcnr.usu.edu/wild/people/graduates/stewart_andi) (M.S. Ecology Degree, TA)

Contact me through the canvas inbox (https://usu.instructure.com/conversations) rather than via e-mail.

Office hours (Zoom): xxxxx or by appointment

Grete Wilson-Henjum (https://qcnr.usu.edu/wild/people/graduates/wilson-henjum_grete) (M.S. Ecology Degree, TA)
Contact me through the canvas inbox (https://usu.instructure.com/conversations) rather than via e-mail.

Office hours (Zoom): XXXXXXXX or by appointment

Gabrielle Nielsen (UTF)

Contact me through the canvas inbox (https://usu.instructure.com/conversations) rather than via e-mail.

Office hours (Zoom): XXXXXXXX or by appointment

Jeremy Nielsen (UTF)

Contact me through the canvas inbox (https://usu.instructure.com/conversations) rather than via e-mail.

Office hours (Zoom): XXXXXXXX or by appointment

Prerequisite/Restriction

MATH 1050 (http://catalog.usu.edu/preview_course_nopop.php?catoid=12&coid=65555) or higher (C- or better); BIOL 1610 (http://catalog.usu.edu/preview_course_nopop.php?catoid=12&coid=88200) and BIOL 1620 (http://catalog.usu.edu/preview_course_nopop.php?catoid=12&coid=88201). Enrollment is limited to WILD department majors (WEMA, REMA, FWMA, CREC).

Course Fee

Each student will be charged $32 to cover the cost of travel and equipment.

Field Trips

UPDATE 8/24/2021 - USU policy requires students to wear masks in University vans or buses for transporting students to field trip destinations. Student who do not wish to wear masks can be asked to find their own transportation to the field trip site.

Tuesday field exercises (8am-1pm) will be conducted on or near the Logan campus. You will be required to walk a maximum of 4 miles in 4 hours to complete each exercise. To receive full participation points during field trips you must arrive prepared for inclement weather conditions which could include snow, rain, and hail. This includes wearing appropriate footwear and clothing.

Required clothing and accessories:

- Hiking boots
- Rain Jacket
- Backpack
- Hat
- Gloves
- Sunscreen
- Water bottle
- Food/snack
- Digital camera or smart phone
- Field notebook and pen

COVID-19 Policy

In order to continue to provide various forms of face-to-face instruction at USU, and to limit the spread of COVID-19 during the pandemic, students are asked to follow certain classroom protocols during the fall 2021 semester. These protocols are based on CDC, state, and local health department guidelines and requirements are in place not only for your safety but also the safety of the entire campus community.

- Vaccinations are highly encouraged and free.
- Face coverings are encouraged in all classrooms and while riding in vehicles.
- Stay home when you are sick, however mild your symptoms.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water.

Learning objectives for students (IDEA)

This course will prepare students for field technician work related to ecological research and land management. Students will experience hands on field navigation, various data collection methods, and data processing.

1) Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends) in natural resource research and management.

2) Acquiring skills in working with others as a member of a team to complete work assignments. Students will work in small groups to address basic natural resource monitoring and management questions.

3) Develop specific skills and competencies required for managing and analyzing data related to wildlife, range, and forest resources. Students will learn to interpret data visualizations and acquire summary statistics using Excel and R software.

Students will be asked to provide independent ratings of the course instruction by completing an online course IDEA (http://www.usu.edu/aaa/idea_faculty_faq.cfm) course survey at the end of semester.

Course resources

We will heavily rely upon the Canvas learning management system throughout the course. You can log into Canvas at https://canvas.usu.edu/ (https://canvas.usu.edu/). Enter your username, which is your A#, and strong password (the same one you use for Banner or Aggiemail).

Course activities
Online Readings & Videos

Links to all required reading and video materials will be available on the Canvas page. Modules are organized by week and topic. Students are expected to watch videos before the Tuesday field/lab exercise.

Software

All software will be available in the Quinney College of Natural Resources computer labs. ([http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3140](http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3140)) Students are also encouraged to download the software onto their personal computers (links will be provided in the Canvas Modules).


Field Equipment

Wild 2400 is a field-based course. As such, we will be spending a considerable amount of time outdoors in all types of weather (sun, rain, sleet, and snow). The instructor will provide necessary field equipment and supplies related to each field exercise. Students should bring a camera (or phone with camera), pencil, and paper.

Student Assessment

Grades will be based on participation, professionalism, quizzes, exams, individual assignments, and group assignments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation (Field exercises, lecture, attendance)</td>
<td>13%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professionalism* (Cell Phone use)</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online quizzes/ lab assignments</td>
<td>42% (13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>16% (1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>16% (1)</td>
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*Professionalism is part of your grade and will be based on the instructor’s assessment of your active and thoughtful participation in the class, meeting deadlines, etiquette, communication, etc. These are behaviors valued by colleagues, employees, and supervisors in Natural resources. Unprofessional behaviors that will result in loss of points include; inappropriate comments, disruptive behaviors, unsafe behaviors, or other distractions such as non-academic use of digital devices in the learning environment. If you must check your phone during a lecture, the professional thing to do is step out into the hall, complete the call or text, and return when you are done and your phone is put away.

Grading scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100 to 93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>92 to 90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89 to 87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>86 to 83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>82 to 80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>79 to 77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>76 to 73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>72 to 70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>69 to 67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>66 to 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59 and below</td>
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Late Work Policy

Late assignments or late quiz submissions are accepted only for illness or family emergencies. Accommodations for academic scheduling conflicts will only be considered with written permission prior to the anticipated absence. This means you must e-mail the instructor prior to the due date or field activity.

Disability Resource Center

The DRC works with individuals, faculty, and staff to ensure that students with disabilities can fully participate in University programs, services, and activities. Students with physical, sensory, emotional or medical impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. Contact the DRC at 435-797-2444 or visit ([http://www.usu.edu/drc/](http://www.usu.edu/drc/)) for more details.

University policy ([http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3587](http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3587))

Academic freedom ([http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3789](http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3789)) – Each individual has the right to teach, study, discuss, investigate, discover, create, and publish freely.

Academic Honesty / Integrity ([http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3140](http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3140)) – Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the University by not participating in or facilitating others’ participation in any act of academic dishonesty and by reporting all violations or suspected violations of the Academic Integrity Standard to their instructors.

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity ([http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3143](http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3143)) – Utah State University prohibits discrimination and harassment based on: race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions), gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, or status as a protected veteran.

Assumption of Risk ([http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3141](http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3141)) – All classes, programs, and extra-curricular activities within the University involve some risk, and certain ones involve travel.

Classroom Incivility ([http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3171](http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3171)) – Disruptive classroom behavior will not be tolerated.

Conduct, Student Standards ([http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3174](http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3174)) – All interactions with faculty members, staff members, and other students shall be conducted with courtesy, civility, decency, and a concern for personal dignity.