WILD 4750 Monitoring and Assessment in Natural Resource and Environmental Management

Class time and location

Lecture: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 am - 10:15 am (BNR 278)
Lab: Tuesdays 10:30 am - 1:15 pm (LSB 225A)

We will meet mostly in-person, supplemented by Zoom sessions. This could change depending on the COVID-19 situation.

There are two required all-day field trips, one on Saturday, Sept. 11 and one on Saturday, Sept. 18.

COVID-19 Classroom Safety Protocols

There is a strong consensus among epidemiologists and public health experts that wearing face masks substantially reduce the spread of COVID-19, which can cause severe respiratory illness, long-term side effects, and death. Aside from protecting others from potential infection, masking helps keep classes (including this one), events and activities happening in person. The USU Case Containment Team will be monitoring COVID cases in our class, and if they deem that exposure cannot be contained, we will be required to switch to meeting remotely via Zoom. (See: https://www.usu.edu/covid-19/students/classroom-exposure) We will be using a seating chart to facilitate contact tracing

While not mandated, USU encourages and welcomes the wearing of masks in all university building, especially within 6 feet of others. Furthermore, it is strongly encouraged to take measures to mitigate risk as recommended by federal and state public health officials. These measures include getting fully vaccinated, staying home if you are sick (even with mild symptoms), and maintaining good hygiene including frequent hand washing. Testing will be provided, without charge, throughout the semester and the USU COVID Webpage (https://www.usu.edu/covid-19/) will provide up-to-date information. Please remember: COVID can have significant impact on the health and safety of those around you so remain vigilant and respectful.

Instructors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Teaching Assistant</th>
<th>Teaching Assistant</th>
<th>Undergraduate Teaching Fellow</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Kari E. Veblen</td>
<td>Lainie Brice</td>
<td>Sofia Koutzakis</td>
<td>Jeremy Alder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office: NR 332</td>
<td><a href="mailto:elbrice92@gmail.com">elbrice92@gmail.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:sofia.koutzakis@usu.edu">sofia.koutzakis@usu.edu</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jeremyalder1842@gmail.com">jeremyalder1842@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>435-797-3970</td>
<td>(<a href="mailto:elbrice92@gmail.com">mailto:elbrice92@gmail.com</a>)</td>
<td>(<a href="mailto:sofia.koutzakis@usu.edu">mailto:sofia.koutzakis@usu.edu</a>)</td>
<td>(<a href="mailto:maria170401@gmail.com">mailto:maria170401@gmail.com</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:kari.veblen@usu.edu">kari.veblen@usu.edu</a></td>
<td>(<a href="mailto:bidner1rj@gmail.com">mailto:bidner1rj@gmail.com</a>)</td>
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<td>Office hours:</td>
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<td>Thursdays, 10:15-11:15am</td>
<td>Wed*: 9:30 -11:00 am</td>
<td>Tues: 3:00 - 4:30 pm,</td>
<td>Mon: 3:00 - 5:00pm</td>
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<td>(NR 332 or Zoom)</td>
<td>Via Zoom</td>
<td>Wed: 2:00 - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Thurs 3:00 - 5:00pm</td>
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<td>*or by appointment</td>
<td>BNR 276 or via Zoom</td>
<td>Via Zoom</td>
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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, to interpretation and reporting of results. Basic IMA techniques will be introduced, and there will be an emphasis on data analysis and interpretation.

Course Objectives

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<th>IDEA Center learning objective</th>
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<tr>
<td>Understanding major concepts in study design, data collection, and data analysis</td>
<td>Gaining a basic understanding of the subject (e.g., factual knowledge, methods, principles, generalizations, theories)</td>
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Developing abilities to apply basic resource management monitoring tools and methods, including study design and data analysis

1) Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)
2) Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course

Fees

Course fee of $40 covers costs associated with class field trips and labs including transportation, supplies and equipment.

Course preparation

Pre-requisites: BIOL/WATS 2220; MATH 1100 or higher (C- grade or better); STAT 2000 or 3000 (C- grade or better); WILD 2400. Pre- or Co- requisite: WILD 3810

Required text

None. All readings will be provided.


Course Structure

Lecture periods will consist of lectures and discussion. You will be expected to spend time outside of the classroom reviewing information and completing exercises in Canvas, with in-module exercises due at midnight before class. This will free up class time for deeper learning and more engaging activities.

Lab time will consist of lectures, computer-oriented instruction, and outdoor field exercises. You must be on time and properly prepared for each lab, including having completed assigned readings. Unless specified otherwise, lab assignments are due by midnight on the Wednesday after lab. For outdoor labs and field trips, you will need to bring the required materials and equipment, including appropriate clothing, footwear, and nourishment. Field exercises will take place unless severe weather is actually occurring. There are two all-day field trips, one on Saturday, Sept. 11 and one on Saturday, Sept. 18. These field trips are required. Transportation will be provided, and as with Aggie Shuttle and other public conveyances, masks will be required in vehicles per CDC requirements, and we will have assigned seating.

Technical requirements

We may use Zoom to meet virtually as a class, or individuals may need to join class remotely via Zoom. You can use the Zoom web client via the Zoom menu option in the Canvas navigation pane to the left. You will need an internet connection and web browser (e.g., Google Chrome), on a device with video and audio/microphone capabilities. See here (https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/214629443-Zoom-web-client) for more info. We also will use Canvas. The Technical Requirements (https://guides.instructure.com/m/67952/l/720329-what-are-the-browser-and-computer-requirements-for-canvas) page identifies the browsers, operating systems, and plugins that work best with Canvas. If you are new to Canvas quickly review the Canvas Student Orientation (https://learn.canvas.net/courses/415/pages/canvas-student-orientation) materials.

Assignments and course grading

1. Two exams (20% X 2 = 40%)
2. Term paper (monitoring proposal) (25%)
3. Lab and lecture exercises* (25%)
4. Module assignments (10%)

* You may drop your lowest grade in this category.

Grade Scheme

The following grading standards will be used in this class:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100% to 93.0%</td>
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Late assignments

For each school day an assignment is late, the grade will be reduced by 10%.

Attendance and Excused Absences Policy

**If you are feeling unwell, or know or suspect exposure to COVID-19, stay home. Do not attend class in-person.** Excused absence due to illness, family emergencies, or other unanticipated events will be handled on an individual basis. Make-up exams will not be given except under extraordinary circumstances.

Cell phones

Please turn off your phones while in class. Please refrain from checking email or using social media during the class period.

Classroom Civility

Utah State University supports the principle of freedom of expression for both faculty and students. The University respects the rights of faculty to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires classroom conditions that do not impede the learning process. Disruptive classroom behavior will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Read Student Code Article V Section V-3 (https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article5) for more information.

University Policies & Procedures

COVID-19 Classroom Accommodations

To ensure that you receive the appropriate accommodation for COVID-19 related challenges, the University requires you to fill out the COVID-19 Questionnaire (https://www.usu.edu/covid-19/questionnaire/index.php). Upon doing so, the University COVID CARE Team (https://www.usu.edu/covid-19/if-you-are-sick/care-team.php) will contact you to determine your needs and how to support you. The CARE Team will also contact your instructors and provide important direction on how best to accommodate your needs. For additional reference, please see USU’s Attendance and Excused Absence (https://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3160) policy and the COVID-19 Classroom Accommodations (https://www.usu.edu/covid-19/operations/accomodations) page.

Reducing COVID-19 Risk

You can help keep classes, events, and activities happening in person this semester by following these steps:
1. Get vaccinated if you’re able. Vaccines are the best available tool to help stop the spread of COVID-19. They are safe, free, and easy to access.

2. If you are vaccinated, let USU know. Please upload your proof of full vaccination (http://aggiehealth.usu.edu/) to AggieHealth. If you are exposed to COVID-19, USU’s case containment will not require you to quarantine if they know you are vaccinated and you do not have symptoms.

3. Stay home if you’re sick and get tested for COVID-19 if you have symptoms or have been exposed. It’s important to not bring any illness to campus.

4. Wear a mask indoors. Public health experts recommend that even vaccinated people wear masks indoors in high COVID-19 transmission areas, which includes most of Utah.

If USU’s COVID Case Containment team identifies an uncontained situation in the classroom, you will be notified of any temporary changes to your course delivery method through a Canvas announcement. Please make sure you are receiving immediate notifications of new Canvas announcements. The situation will be handled according to protocols on the COVID Classroom Exposure (https://www.usu.edu/covid-19/students/classroom-exposure) page.

**Class Seating Charts (For In-Person Classes)**

In classes with more than 10 students, a seating chart will be used to track where you are sitting. After the first week of classes, your instructor will tell you how to enter your seat number in Canvas. **You must sit in the same seat for the rest of the semester.** This is extremely important for tracking cases of COVID-19 and helping classes remain in person.

**Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibilities**

Academic freedom is the right to teach, study, discuss, investigate, discover, create, and publish freely. Academic freedom protects the rights of faculty members in teaching and of students in learning. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Faculty members are entitled to full freedom in teaching, research, and creative activities, subject to the limitations imposed by professional responsibility. Faculty Code Policy #403 (http://www.usu.edu/hr/files/uploads/Policies/403.pdf) further defines academic freedom and professional responsibilities.

**Academic Integrity – "The Honor System"**

Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. To enhance the learning environment at Utah State University and to develop student academic integrity, each student agrees to the following Honor Pledge:

"I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity."

A student who lives by the Honor Pledge is a student who does more than not cheat, falsify, or plagiarize. A student who lives by the Honor Pledge:

- Espouses academic integrity as an underlying and essential principle of the Utah State University community;
- Understands that each act of academic dishonesty devalues every degree that is awarded by this institution; and
- Is a welcomed and valued member of Utah State University.

**Academic Dishonesty**

The instructor of this course will take appropriate actions in response to Academic Dishonesty, as defined the University’s Student Code. Acts of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

- **Cheating**: using, attempting to use, or providing others with any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, examinations, or in any other academic exercise or activity. Unauthorized assistance includes:
  - Working in a group when the instructor has designated that the quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity be done "individually;"
  - Depending on the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;
  - Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, in taking an examination or preparing academic work;
  - Acquiring tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty member, staff member, or another student without express permission;
  - Continuing to write after time has been called on a quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity;
  - Submitting substantially the same work for credit in more than one class, except with prior approval of the instructor; or engaging in any form of research fraud.

- **Falsification**: altering or fabricating any information or citation in an academic exercise or activity.

- **Plagiarism**: 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 using materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the sale of term papers or other academic materials.

For additional information go to: **ARTICLE VI. University Regulations Regarding Academic Integrity** (https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article6)

**Sexual Harassment/Title IX**

Utah State University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free from acts of sexual misconduct and discrimination and to fostering respect and dignity for all members of the USU community. Title IX and USU Policy 339 (http://www.usu.edu/policies/339) address sexual harassment in the workplace and academic setting.
The university responds promptly upon learning of any form of possible discrimination or sexual misconduct. Any individual may contact USU's Office of Equity (https://equity.usu.edu/) for available options and resources or clarification. The university has established a complaint procedure to handle all types of discrimination complaints, including sexual harassment (USU Policy 305 (http://www.usu.edu/policies/305/)), and has designated the Office of Equity Director/Title IX Coordinator as the official responsible for receiving and investigating complaints of sexual harassment.

Withdrawal Policy and "I" Grade Policy

Students are required to complete all courses for which they are registered by the end of the semester. In some cases, a student may be unable to complete all of the coursework because of extenuating circumstances, but not due to poor performance or to retain financial aid. The term 'extenuating' circumstances includes: (1) incapacitating illness which prevents a student from attending classes for a minimum period of two weeks, (2) a death in the immediate family, (3) financial responsibilities requiring a student to alter a work schedule to secure employment, (4) change in work schedule as required by an employer, or (5) other emergencies deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Students with Disabilities

USU welcomes students with disabilities. If you have, or suspect you may have, a physical, mental health, or learning disability that may require accommodations in this course, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) (http://www.usu.edu/drc/) as early in the semester as possible (University Inn # 101, (435) 797-2444, drc@usu.edu (mailto:drc@usu.edu)). All disability related accommodations must be approved by the DRC. Once approved, the DRC will coordinate with faculty to provide accommodations.

Students who are at a higher risk for complications from COVID-19 or who contract COVID-19 may also be eligible for accommodations.

Diversity Statement

Regardless of intent, careless or ill-informed remarks can be offensive and hurtful to others and detract from the learning climate. If you feel uncomfortable in a classroom due to offensive language or actions by an instructor or student(s) regarding ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation, contact:

- Division of Student Affairs: https://studentaffairs.usu.edu (https://studentaffairs.usu.edu/), (435) 797-1712, studentservices@usu.edu (mailto:studentservices@usu.edu), TSC 220
- Student Legal Services: https://ususa.usu.edu/student-association/student-advocacy/legal-services (https://ususa.usu.edu/student-association/student-advocacy/legal-services), (435) 797-2912, TSC 326,
- Access and Diversity: http://accesscenter.usu.edu (http://accesscenter.usu.edu/), (435) 797-1728, access@usu.edu (mailto:access@usu.edu); TSC 315
- Multicultural Programs: http://accesscenter.usu.edu/multiculture (http://accesscenter.usu.edu/multiculture), (435) 797-1728, TSC 315
- LGBTQA Programs: http://accesscenter.usu.edu/lgbtqa (http://accesscenter.usu.edu/lgbtqa/), (435) 797-1728, TSC 3145
- Provost’s Office Diversity Resources: https://www.usu.edu/provost/diversity (https://www.usu.edu/provost/diversity/), (435) 797-8176

You can learn about your student rights by visiting:

The Code of Policies and Procedures for Students at Utah State University: https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode (https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/)

Grievance Process

Students who feel they have been unfairly treated may file a grievance through the channels and procedures described in the Student Code: Article VII (https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article7).

Full details for USU Academic Policies and Procedures can be found at:

- Student Conduct (http://www.usu.edu/studentconduct)
- Student Code (https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/)
- Academic Integrity (https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article6)

Emergency Procedures

In the case of a drill or real emergency, classes will be notified to evacuate the building by the sound of the fire/emergency alarm system or by a building representative. In the event of a disaster that may interfere with either notification, evacuate as the situation dictates (i.e., in an earthquake when shaking ceases or immediately when a fire is discovered). Turn off computers and take any personal items with you. Elevators should not be used; instead, use the closest stairs.

Mental Health

Mental health is critically important for the success of USU students. As a student, you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. Utah State University provides free services for students to assist them with addressing these and other concerns. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus at Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) (https://counseling.usu.edu).
Students are also encouraged to download the “SafeUT App” (https://healthcare.utah.edu/uni/programs/safe-ut-smartphone-app) to their smartphones. The SafeUT application is a 24/7 statewide crisis text and tip service that provides real-time crisis intervention to students through texting and a confidential tip program that can help anyone with emotional crises, bullying, relationship problems, mental health, or suicide related issues.