



## Department of Wildland Resources

### WILD 4500 Principles of Wildlife Management

## 2019 SYLLABUS

<b>Instructor:</b>	Johan du Toit, NR 344, johan.dutoit@usu.edu
<b>Credits:</b>	3 hours, spring semester
<b>Days, time, room:</b>	MWF, 1:30–2:20, NR 217
<b>Prerequisite:</b>	WILD 3810 Plant and Animal Populations

#### **Learning objectives:**

- 1) Ability to apply ecological and behavioral concepts and principles to the management of wildlife populations and habitats to achieve a diversity of objectives including restoration, conservation, sustained harvest, and control.
- 2) Understanding of key ecological principles that apply to wildlife at organism, population, community, and ecosystem levels, with understanding of their relevance to wildlife management practices.
- 3) Understanding of the policy framework, decision-making processes, and social and political considerations that influence wildlife management at the state and federal levels.
- 4) Skills in critical thinking, synthesis, use of literature, and scientific writing.

**Textbook:**

There is no prescribed text but the recommended book for this course is by L. Scott Mills (*Conservation of Wildlife Populations*, Blackwell Publishing, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edn. 2012), which is useful not only for wildlife management but also for population biology and conservation genetics. Copies are available in the USU Campus Bookstore.

Another excellent textbook is by Anthony R.E. Sinclair, John M. Fryxell, and Graeme Caughley (*Wildlife Ecology, Conservation, and Management*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edn. 2014). Also, we should not overlook the book that literally gave rise to the science-based management of wildlife: Aldo Leopold's *Game Management*, published in 1933. Aldo Leopold is generally acknowledged as the 'father' of wildlife management, so anyone planning a career in this profession should have a copy of his book on their shelf.

**Course scope and format:**

This course integrates animal behavior, population dynamics, habitat relationships, ecosystem processes, and the social and political aspects of wildlife management. In keeping with current thinking, wildlife management is presented as a tool for the stewardship of resilient social-ecological systems. The course is designed for senior undergraduate students and integrates the entire wildlife science curriculum while building new knowledge. Case studies are presented to illustrate the application of basic management principles to the stewardship of wildlife resources in real-world scenarios.

The format is a combination of lectures, class activities involving peer interaction, discussions, and writing assignments. Classes are held MWF 1:30–2:20 in NR 217. Lectures combine PowerPoint presentations with whiteboard work and so, although all PowerPoint presentations and other course materials are accessible in Canvas, it is important that students attend classes and take notes.

**Grading:**

The final course grade will be based on two mid-term tests, a final exam, and two writing assignments. The tests count 15% each, the final exam 30%, the first writing assignment 15% and the second writing assignment 25%. Class participation is strongly encouraged and will be rewarded at the end of the semester by adding 1-5 bonus points to the final percentage scores of those who contribute regularly and constructively to class discussions.

**Tests and final exam:**

The first class test (*Monday 4 February*) is a take-home, open-book test designed to get you familiar with the types of questions you will be asked in the

second class test and in the final exam. The second class test (*Wednesday 27 February*) is closed-book, in-class, and covers all the material from all preceding classes. The final exam (*Friday 26 April*) is closed-book, in-class, and fully comprehensive in that it covers all the material presented in the entire course.

### **Writing assignments:**

Assignments must be submitted before or on the deadline dates, which are clearly stated in this syllabus and in the class schedule. These are exercises in scientific writing, which all wildlife professionals have to be competent with, and all reference material must be peer-reviewed work published in journals or books.

1). The first assignment requires a report (4 pages minimum, double-spaced, 12-point font) supported by at least five relevant references, which must be cited and listed according to the format of the *Journal of Wildlife Management*. Do not use website URLs as references. The topic is:

Select any wildlife species of your choice and write a report on how scientific research (biology and ecology) has resulted in improved management of one or more populations of that species.

*Due in class Friday 22 February.*

2). The second assignment requires a paper (6 pages minimum, double-spaced, 12-point font) supported by 15+ references, with at least 75% of the references dated since 2000. The paper must conform to the format of the *Journal of Wildlife Management*. Do not use website URLs as references. The topic is:

Select a wildlife species (not the same as in Assignment 1) that is currently the focus of a wildlife management problem in one or more areas due to any reason such as predation, disease, competition with livestock, low population size, etc. Review the development of the problem, explain how the problem is currently managed, evaluate how effective that management is in controlling the problem, and suggest how it could be adapted for a better outcome.

*Due in class Wednesday 10 April.*

### **Academic integrity:**

Any student discovered to have cheated on an exam or to have plagiarized all or part of a written assignment shall receive an F grade and could face USU disciplinary proceedings. To learn more about the USU Honor System, read Section V-3 of the USU Student Code of Conduct at <https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article5>

Academic dishonesty is defined below as per the USU Student Code of Conduct:

(A) Cheating includes intentionally: (1) using or attempting to use or providing others with any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, examinations,

or in any other academic exercise or activity; (2) depending upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; (3) substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, in taking an examination or preparing academic work; (4) acquiring tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty member, staff member, or another student without express permission; (5) engaging in any form of research fraud.

(B) Falsification includes the intentional and unauthorized altering or inventing of any information or citation in an academic exercise or activity.

(C) 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 acknowledgement. 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.

Proper behavior for students primarily includes refraining from actions that disrupt the learning environment. These actions include making unnecessary noise, bringing children or pets to lecture, lab, or review sessions, and failing to turn off cell phones.

#### **Accommodation for disabilities:**

In coordination with the USU Disability Resource Center, reasonable accommodations will be provided for qualified students with disabilities. Please meet with the instructor during the first week of class to make arrangements and also contact the USU Disability Resource Center, located in the basement of the University Inn, phone 797-2444.

#### **Above all:**

Your objective should be to enjoy this course and come away from it having gained a firm understanding of the underlying principles that govern the stewardship of wildlife resources. Participate in class discussions, ask questions, make use of revision opportunities, and consult the instructor after class if there is anything you need clarified.

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