URBAN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
FOR 466/FOR 566
SPRING 2012

Lecture Meetings: Th 1845-2115, FO 208
Instructor: Dr. Christopher E. Comer
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Office Hours: M 0830-1030, 1400-1700
Tu/Th 1030-1200
W 0830-1030
Also by appointment

Course Description: This course provides an overview of current issues, concepts, and practices related to the management of various wildlife species in urbanized settings from the urban center to the rural-urban interface. While the focus of the class is on more general differences between urban wildlife management and traditional wildlife management, we will focus on several key species and issues as examples of these concepts.

Program Learning Outcomes (This is not a general education course): FOR 466 is part of the Urban Forestry degree plan and is required for all students pursuing that program of study.

The following course learning outcomes (PLO’s) have been approved for the Bachelor of Science in Forestry (BSF) degree program:

1. Demonstrate understanding and competency of forest ecology and biology (PLO1);
2. Demonstrate understanding and competency in the measurement of forest resources (PLO2);
3. Demonstrate understanding and competency in managing forest resources (PLO3);
4. Demonstrate understanding and competency of forest resource policy, economics, and administration (PLO4);
5. Demonstrate understanding and competency in oral and written communication skills (PLO5).

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of the course, students should:
1. Understand and appreciate the unique challenges and opportunities presented by managing wildlife in the urban environment (A, PLOs #1 and 3).
2. Demonstrate basic understanding of the principles and theories governing population dynamics and habitat use in urban systems (I, PLO #1)
3. Demonstrate familiarity with basic practices and principles involved in managing for several important species and species groups that are important in the urban setting (A, PLO #3).
4. Be familiar with current issues in the urban wildlife management and the role media and human dimensions play managing urban wildlife (I, PLO #4).

5. Demonstrate ability to synthesize literature and other sources related to a particular topic in urban wildlife management and communicate about that topic effectively with peers (A, PLO #5).

Readings: Each student is expected to read and be responsible for all assigned readings. Readings for lecture will consist of articles from the wildlife literature and chapters from the text. Readings that are not from the text will be available online through WebCT. You will be asked questions directly from the readings on the exams.


There is an electronic study guide associated with this book that I will make available online through the class website.

Course Requirements: Performance in the class will be evaluated based on a combination of lecture exams, laboratory exams, a plant collection and a management plan presentation according to the following formula:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #2</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Presentation</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluations of Presentations</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News Article</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Survey Report</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certification Plan</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total points</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course grades will be given according to the following formula: 90-100=A, 80-89=B, 70-79=C, 60-69=D, 0-59=F.

Lecture Exams: There will be 2 lecture exams during the course of the semester, scheduled for March 8 and May 10. Lecture exams will cover any materials discussed in class by me, your peers, or guest speakers as well as material from all assigned readings. There will not be a comprehensive final for the class, although certain material on the second exam may build on material presented in the first half of the class.

Make up exams will be given only in the case of a documented, university-approved excuse. In this case, the make up exam will be given as soon as possible after the scheduled exam date. **I do not give make-up exams for unexcused absences**; if you miss one it will count as a 0 and be averaged into your final grade.

Student Presentations: Each student will be required to prepare a 30-minute presentation (undergraduates) or a 50-minute lecture (grads) on a topic related to urban wildlife management. I will provide a list of potential topics that will be assigned on a first-claim,
first-assigned basis. Students will be required to assign a reading about the topic and be prepared to answer questions from peers. I will provide a more detailed description of the presentation requirements in a separate handout.

**Evaluations of Presentations:** You will be required to fill out an evaluation form for each student presentation, highlighting the positive aspects of the presentation and recommending areas for improvement. I will gather these and prepare a packet to be given to each student so that they can receive feedback that will improve their oral communication. You will be graded on the thoughtfulness and quality of your recommendations.

**Other Activities and Assignments:**
There will be 3 additional activities and assignments during the semester. For the first, each student should find a recent (within the last year) media (print or online) story about urban wildlife. Email your story to me and I will put the links online. This assignment is due on **January 26** and is worth 10 points.

Although there is no official lab component of this class, we will have several activities during the semester that will involve spending time outdoors. Not only do I enjoy getting outside periodically, but I also feel that seeing things in the field is a valuable component of any forestry or wildlife class. Depending on the flexibility of everyone’s schedule, we may try to start the class earlier on days when outdoor activities are planned. For all of these activities, you will need to dress appropriately (e.g., leather boots, hard hats, etc.). The outdoor activities will include a camera-based survey of wildlife in urban habitats of Nacogdoches (40 points) and preparation of a environmental management plan for a local golf course (100 points). More details will be forthcoming.

**Other policies:**
**Attendance:** I expect students to attend all lectures and class-related activities; however, the responsibility to attend class ultimately rests with you, the students. Because this class meets only once per week, missing even one class will result in missing a significant chunk of material. Additionally, your classmates will have spent time and effort preparing presentations for your enjoyment.

**Responsible Use of Technology:** It is expected that all students will only use cell phones, PDAs, laptop computers, MP3 players and other technology outside of class time or when appropriate in class. Answering a cell phone, texting, listening to music or using a laptop computer for matters unrelated to the course may be grounds for dismissal from class or other penalties. Put them away during any exam period; if I see a cell phone during an exam, I will consider that student to be cheating on the exam with appropriate consequences.

**Classroom Behavior:** Disruptive, distracting, or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic, or other penalties. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom.

**Ethics and Professionalism:** All of the students in this class and in the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture are expected to conduct themselves in an ethical and professional manner. For wildlife biologists and managers, The Wildlife Society has established a Code of
Ethics to which these professionals are expected to adhere. I strongly encourage you to read and abide by these guidelines, available at http://www.wildlife.org/about/index.cfm?tname=ethics. Remember that most of you are preparing to join either the work force or graduate school as representatives of this College and the profession. Try to begin acting accordingly.

Academic Integrity (A-9.1): Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Withheld Grade Semester Grades Policy (A-54): Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities: To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

General Topic Outline
The following is a tentative outline of topics that I intend to cover over the course of the semester. This is for your information purposes and I reserve the right to change, add, or move topics at my discretion.

1) Introduction and “What is Urban Wildlife Management”
2) Basic ecological principles as applied to urban wildlife management
3) Basics of population dynamics and urban wildlife
4) Urban soils
5) Urban waters and streams
6) Urban Habitats
   a. Green spaces
   b. Gray spaces
7) Wildlife damage management
8) Zoonoses in the urban setting
9) Ecology of birds in urban landscapes