FOR 463
Special Topics in Wildlife Techniques
Spring 2018

Instructor: Dr. Daniel G. Scognamillo
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Office Hours: Mon 08:00 AM-11:00 AM
Wed 08:00 AM-11:00 AM
Thu 09:00 AM-12:00 PM
Also by appointment

Lectures: TBA
Labs: TBA

Credit hours: 3 semester

Course Description.
Introduction and practice in a variety of field methods used in the study of wildlife populations. Course emphasizes assumptions, biases, and problems associated with various techniques, as well as analysis of data, interpretation, and application of results to the management and conservation of wildlife populations.

Program Learning Outcomes.
The course is designed to address the following Program Learning Outcomes, as given in the Bachelor of Science in Forestry Program Matrix:

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

Items #1 - #4 above are required by the Society of American Foresters, the program’s accrediting agency.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B.S. Forestry Program Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Proficiency Levels</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forestry Common Core</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOR 305</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
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</table>
Student Learning Outcomes.
Upon completion of the course, students will:

a. Foundational knowledge.
- have a clear understanding of the most current techniques and supporting theory for the study of wildlife populations.
- have a clear understanding of major concepts related to the design and implementation of wildlife research.
- be able to formulate valid criteria for the selection of the appropriate techniques to address specific wildlife research goals.

b. Application.
- be able to find information on and analyze current wildlife management issues.
- be able to identify current knowledge gaps and needs in wildlife ecology and management research.

c. Integration.
- identify the interactions between wildlife management and other realms of knowledge such as conservation biology, ecology, economics, and politics.

d. Human dimension.
- be able to identify ways in which one’s or someone else’s personal life could affect or be affected by implementation of different wildlife techniques.
- be able to intelligently discuss important issues in wildlife management with other people.

e. Future learning.
- be familiar with a number of popular wildlife journals and other sources of knowledge about wildlife techniques.
- have some specific ideas about what other knowledge would be desirable to have about new wildlife techniques or improvement for current ones.

Textbook and readings.
No textbook is required for the class. All reading material will be provided by the instructor in the form of handouts or pdf files.

Course requirements.
Knowing and understanding the material presented and discussed in lectures/labs are the keystone for successfully completing this course. As the instructor of this course I commit myself to being knowledgeable on all the topics that we will cover in class and being well prepared to lecture about them. For that reason, I expect all students to have perfect attendance and be well prepared for class (i.e. read all assignments and review notes from lectures).

Grading.
Faculty members may use a variety of factors including assignments, oral and written quizzes, examinations, class attendance, and other course activities to determine course grades as listed in their course syllabi (SFASU Policy 5.5.). Your final grade for this course will be calculated as the percentage of the total points (600 pts) you obtained by completing all the course requirements during the semester (quizzes, lab reports, midterm exam and final exam). No other special assignment will be given to any student.

Grades should only be changed in cases of error or, in the case of WH, when the course requirements have been completed (SFASU Policy 5.5.). “A student may appeal a final grade if it can be demonstrated that the instructor did not adhere to stated procedures or grading standards, or if other compelling reasons exist to change the grade. A student may not appeal due to general dissatisfaction with a final grade or disagreement with the instructor’s
professional judgement regarding the quality of the student’s work” (SFASU Policy 6.3.)

Grades in this class will be based on a combination of exams and special project reports.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination</th>
<th>Pts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special project report #1</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special project report #2</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>300</td>
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Grading policy.
Course grades will be given according to the following rank:

A: 100.00% -90.00%, B: 89.99% - 80.00%, C: 79.99% - 70.00%, D: 69.99% - 60.00%, F: <60%

Technique Labs.
Lab practices will take place in room 208 or in an outdoor location TBD. I will make the announcement in class about time and location of these activities.

Reading assignments.
I will provide hard or electronic copies of all readings at least one week in advance. Readings for lecture/lab will consist of articles from the scientific literature. Each student is expected to read and be responsible for all assigned readings. You will be asked questions directly from the readings during the lecture exams.

Lecture Exam
The final exam will include all the material covered during the semester. Any materials discussed in class and all reading material will be considered for the exams.

Attendance Policy
Perfect attendance to lectures and labs is a requirement for this course. Justified absences will be accepted with the proper documentation.

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.

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.

Other policies
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 professionals in natural sciences, the Ecological Society of America 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.esa.org/aboutesa/codeethics.php.
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.

Student Academic Dishonesty Policy (4.1)
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/4.1-student-academic-dishonesty.pdf

Penalties for Academic Dishonesty (Policy 4.1)
Penalties may include, but are not limited to, reprimand, no credit for the assignment or exam, resubmission of the work, make-up exam, failure of the course, or expulsion from the university.

Course Grades Policy (5.5)
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. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/5.5_course-grades.pdf

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities Policy (6.1)
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/
**Proposed lecture and lab topics**

These are proposed topics to be covered during the semester. In order to improve the learning experience of students in the class, and to increase the probability of achieving the Student Learning Outcomes, the professor reserves the right to modify the order in which topics are presented, and to modify this list by adding or deleting topics as the semester progresses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction, Study Design.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Experimental Design. Sampling.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Data collection and analysis.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Animal capture. Animal handling, chemical immobilization.</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Marking techniques.</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Telemetry/Home range.</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Population estimation.</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Measuring habitat and food availability.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Species occurrence models.</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Species reintroduction programs.</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Human dimension. Wildlife-human conflicts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Wildlife Conservation and management plans.</td>
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<tr>
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