FIELD WILDLIFE TECHNIQUES
FORS 3136

Instructors:
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Course Description.
This course is designed to be a diverse and intense week of field exercises focusing upon a range of forest wildlife management topics. The primary exercise will be a detailed, hands-on investigation of wildlife (including birds, mammals, and herps) present in forested and aquatic habitats. You will also learn about trapping and handling techniques, identification of species by sight and sound, and sampling design among other topics.

Program Learning Outcomes (This is not a general education course).
Forestry 336 is one of the forestry core courses required of all forestry majors and thus competency is required. A minimum grade of a “C” must be attained or the course will have to be repeated. The course is designed to address the following Program Learning Outcomes, as given in the BSF Program Matrix:

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 how habitat variables affect species distribution and abundance in East Texas forests (I, PLO #1).
2. Be familiar with identification and survey techniques for common mammal, bird, amphibian, and reptile species of East Texas (B, PLO #1 and 3).
3. Gain a basic understanding of the relationship between forest management and wildlife habitat in southeastern forested systems (B, PLO #1 and 3).

Text.
This course has several required texts that are basic identification guides for various vertebrate taxa occurring in southeastern forests. We will refer to these guides throughout the field activities and students will be tested on identification skills on exams. Failure to produce any of these items will result in 10% deduction from your final grade.

The required texts are:
1. An identification guide to mammals. These may include the:
   b. *The Mammals of Texas* by David Schmidly.
2. One of several quality field guides to North American birds. (see e-version in app format for
iOS or Android). Good ones include:
   b. *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America*;
   d. *Smart phone apps are great! iBird Pro App for iOS/Android users*
3. An identification guide to reptiles and amphibians of North America. Examples include:
   a. *A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America*
      from the Peterson Series;

**Equipment.**

For field activities you are required to have a working pair of binoculars, a pair of sturdy leather gloves,
and a headlamp/flashlight.

**Group Rotations.**

You will be assigned to a single group during the week. All activities will be in that group, although the
activities will rotate among the professors. Below is a brief outline of the basic group rotation for the
week. Exact timing of afternoon departures/return times to campus will vary, depending upon the
discretion and expertise of your instructor, as well as what activities that group is doing.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AM</td>
<td>All groups - Install traps and mist nets</td>
<td>Group 1 - Glasscock (Bring brown bag lunch)</td>
<td>Group 3 - Glasscock (Bring brown bag lunch)</td>
<td>Group 2 - Glasscock</td>
<td>Study</td>
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<td>PM</td>
<td>Group 2 - Schalk (Bring brown bag lunch)</td>
<td>Group 1 - Schalk</td>
<td>Group 1 - Schalk (Bring brown bag lunch)</td>
<td>Group 3 - Schalk</td>
<td>Lecture and Wildlife ID exams - D2L</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Group 3 - Tiller</td>
<td>Group 2 - Tiller</td>
<td>Group 2 - Tiller</td>
<td>Group 1 - Tiller</td>
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Week Schedule.
The schedule for this week will be flexible and dependent on what activities are going on each day.
Schedule on Monday and Friday will be different. This is just a general guide for your planning purposes;
however, in general, we will follow the schedule below (times could change based on activities needs):

0545: Tiller and Glasscock groups meet at parking lot behind Forestry Building.
0600: Tiller and Glasscock groups leave—if you are not here you immediately incur 20% penalty
to your grade.
0715: Schalk group meets at parking lot behind Forestry Building.
0730: Schalk group leaves - if you are not here you immediately incur 20% penalty to your grade.
1100: Glasscock group returns to campus.
1500: Tiller group returns to campus.
1700: Schalk group returns to campus.
1700: Glasscock group meets in parking lot for evening activities - if you are not here you
immediately incur 20% penalty to your grade.
2200: Glasscock return to campus

Grading.
Grades in this class will be based on a combination of your daily reports, a practical and a lecture exams,
and your attitude and participation throughout the week. Final grade will be calculated according to the
following formula:

\[
\text{Wildlife ID Exam} \quad 100 \\
\text{Lecture/Concepts Exam} \quad 100 \\
\text{Participation} \quad 75 \\
\hline
\text{Total points} \quad 275
\]

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

Exams.
The Wildlife Section of Field Station has a wildlife ID and lecture/concepts exams.

1. The Lecture/Concepts Exam will include specific questions (e.g., How do we determine sex in
   birds?, How do you mark snakes?, How do you age a bobcat?). Any topic covered formally or
   informally during this Wildlife Section by the instructors is eligible for inclusion in the exam. We
   suggest making some notes for all topics covered in the field as well as the online lectures and
   reading material assigned. The exam will consist of 25 questions worth 4 points each for a total of
   100 points. The Practical Exam will be made available on D2L on Friday, June 11th from 9:00am-
   9:30am. The student will only have one attempt to take the Lecture/Concepts exam.
2. The Wildlife ID Exam will focus on identification of various vertebrate species by sight and sound. It may include any species from the lists provided by the faculty. Use your field guides to help you learn the diagnostic characteristics for the species in the list provided. The exam will consist of 50 questions worth 2 points each for a total of 100 points. The Practical Exam will be made available on D2L on Friday, June 11th from 10:00am-12:00pm. Students will have 60 minutes to complete the exam. The student will have 2 attempts to take the Lecture/Concepts exam with the highest grade being applied towards the final grade.

Participation.

It has been our experience that the success of the Wildlife Section and field station as a whole is dependent most of all on your positive attitude and willingness to immerse yourselves in the learning process. We know that you have very different backgrounds and experience in wildlife; however, that should not limit your ability to get a good grade. To reflect the importance we put on this participation, you will be assigned a score of 0-75 points (divided among the three primary instructors). You should all get 75 points but experience suggests that not all of you will.

Attendance.

Students are required to attend all field exercises during the Wildlife Section. Excused absences will be made only in exceptional circumstances and appropriate make-up work will be assigned in these cases. Failure to attend any activity without prior approval or an excused absence will result in a 20% reduction of your total course grade. If you arrive after the vans have departed for the field, you MAY NOT meet us in the field in your personal vehicle. Do not attempt to do so, as this violates University Policy and you have already received the point deduction.

Acceptable Student Behavior.

Classroom (on-campus or online) and field behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive 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. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

We may have guests that are generous enough to spend their time with us during the week. Remember that you are representing the College of Forestry and Agriculture and the University when these speakers are with us. Please be courteous and respectful to them as you would be to any faculty member; no, be more courteous and respectful than that.

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. Likewise, the Society of American Foresters has a published code of ethics for foresters and others in the forestry profession. I encourage you to read and abide by these guidelines, available at: 

**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/.

**Mental Health Resources.** SFASU values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.
On-campus Resources:
SFASU Counseling Services
www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
3rd Floor Rusk Building
936-468-2401

SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
Human Services Room 202
936-468-1041

Crisis Resources:
Burke 24-hour crisis line 1(800) 392-8343
Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1(800) 273-TALK (8255)
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741