

WILDLIFE 451
MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE HABITAT
SPRING SEMESTER 2019, 4 CREDITS

Contact Info

Instructors: Dr. Shawn Crimmins
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Office Hours: By appointment
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Classroom: Lecture-TNR 320, Tuesday and Thursday 11:00–12:15
Lab Section 1-SCI A110, Wednesday 9:00–10:50
Lab Section 2-SCI A111, Wednesday 1:00–2:50

Communication

The primary form of communicating with you is through announcements in class, but most announcements will also be posted in some form to D2L. If you are someone who does not regularly come to lecture or check D2L you will miss important information that will likely affect your grade. So show up, seriously.

Learning Outcomes

Goal: This course will introduce students to the fundamental principles of wildlife habitat management. Broadly, this will include topics related to specific habitat types common to North America, habitat manipulation procedures, species-specific responses to habitat management, and quantification of habitat selection metrics. Ultimately, students in this course will be expected to integrate these topics in the form of a written wildlife habitat management plan.

Students satisfactorily completing this course should be able to:

- 1) Identify unique structural characteristics and ecological functioning of common North American habitat types.
- 2) Understand the reasoning behind the application of, and predict the effects of, specific habitat management techniques to meet specified management objectives.
- 3) Describe the individual- and population-level responses of wildlife to habitat manipulation procedures.
- 4) Quantify and interpret commonly used metrics of wildlife habitat selection.
- 5) Integrate multiple topics related to wildlife management in the form of a structured habitat management plan to meet specified objectives.

Course Materials: Essentially all course materials will be posted to D2L. This includes copies of course lectures, assigned and recommended readings, and other related materials. Information related to the study area for the development of management plans will also be posted to D2L.

Course Structure: This course has a relatively complex structure (just like wildlife habitat itself!). There are two 75-minute lectures each week and a single 2-hour lab. The majority of the time during the lecture periods will be lectures that I give and discussions of habitat related topics. The lab period will be a combination of additional lecture content, demonstrations of analytical approaches for assessing wildlife habitat selection, and collaborative development of wildlife management plans.

Exams/Discussions/Management Plans: Two exams will be given during the semester (a midterm and a final), each of which must be taken at the scheduled time or a score of zero will be assigned. Both exams will be worth 100 points. Both exams will be closed-book and closed-note. The structure of the exams will primarily be short-answer.

Each week there will be an assigned reading that will be the basis of an in-class discussion at the beginning of each the lab period, collectively these discussions will be worth 50 “participation” points. Additionally, each of the readings will be the basis of a single exam question.

You will be required to develop a wildlife habitat management plan as part of a small group. The draft version of the management plan will be worth 25 points, and the final version of the management plan will be worth 100 points. The final presentation of the management plan will be worth 50 points. There will also be a total of 25 points based on peer-reviews of your efforts in developing and presenting your management plan.

Your final grade will thus be based on a total of 450 possible points: 200 for the two exams, 200 for the management plan, and 50 participation points.

Attendance: University policy dictates that we take attendance during the first eight days of the semester (place your initials next to your name on the sign-in sheet at the front), after that we do not take attendance. However, performance on exams is enhanced by regular class attendance. There is a very direct correlation between attendance and final grades. Simply put, if you do not regularly attend lectures then you will do poorly in the class. Similarly, the quality of your educational experience in this course will be directly related to the amount of time you invest in classroom preparation and the extent to which you become involved in classroom discussions.

Grading: Final grades for the course will be awarded as follows: A = 93%; A- = 90%; B+ = 87%; B = 83%; B- = 80%; C+ = 77%; C = 73%; C- = 70%; D+ = 65%; D = 60%; F = <60%. The final class grade will be based on the percentage of total points earned, out of the total points possible (450).

Getting Help: Please do not be shy about coming in to office hours for help! Our office hours are on the first page but you are welcome to email us to schedule a time outside of regular office hours for help. If you are having any trouble understanding something in class, then do not hesitate to come by, as those problems will likely only get worse as the material becomes more complex and builds on itself.

Below is a tentative course schedule that is subject to change. Any changes to the schedule will be announced in class.

Tentative Course Schedule

DATE	LECTURE	LAB
<u>Section 1 – Habitat and Management Basics</u>		
Tue, Jan 22	Course Introduction	Lab Introduction
Thu, Jan 24	Defining Habitat and Management	
Tue, Jan 29	<i>No Class, Midwest F&W</i>	<i>No Lab, Midwest F&W</i>
Thu, Jan 31	Home-Range	
Tue, Feb 5	Habitat Selection 1	Monitoring – Wildlife
Thu, Feb 7	Habitat Selection 2	
Tue, Feb 12	<i>No Class, WI TWS</i>	<i>No Lab, WI TWS</i>
Thu, Feb 14	<i>No Class, WI TWS</i>	
<u>Section 2 – Agricultural Management</u>		
Tue, Feb 19	Agriculture 1	Monitoring – Habitat
Thu, Feb 21	Agriculture 2	
Tue, Feb 26	Agriculture 3	Management Plans
Thu, Feb 28	Agriculture 4	
<u>Section 3 – Grassland Management</u>		
Tue, Mar 5	Grasslands 1	GIS Basics
Thu, Mar 7	Grasslands 2	
Tue, Mar 12	Grasslands 3	<i>No Lab, Exam Week</i>
Thu, Mar 14	<i>EXAM 1</i>	
<u>Section 4 – Forest Management</u>		
Tue, Mar 19	<i>No Class, Spring Break</i>	<i>No Lab, Spring Break</i>
Thu, Mar 21	<i>No Class, Spring Break</i>	
Tue, Mar 26	Forests 1	Management Plans
Thu, Mar 28	Forests 2	
Tue, Apr 2	Forests 3	Management Plans
Thu, Apr 4	Forests 4	
<u>Section 5 – Wetland Management</u>		
Tue, Apr 9	Guest Lecture - TBD	<i>No Lab</i>
Thu, Apr 11	Guest Lecture - TBD	
Tue, Apr 16	Wetlands 1	Management Plans
Thu, Apr 18	Wetlands 2	
Tue, Apr 23	Wetlands 3	Management Plans
Thu, Apr 25	Wetlands 4	
<u>Section 5 – Miscellaneous Topics</u>		
Tue, Apr 30	Federal Legislation	Management Plans
Thu, May 2	Urban Habitat	
Tue, May 7	<i>Plan Presentations</i>	<i>Plan Presentations</i>
Thu, May 9	<i>Plan Presentations</i>	
We, May 15	<i>FINAL EXAM (8:00–10:00), TNR 320</i>	

University Policies (abridged)

Academic Dishonesty: Don't cheat, seriously. Aside from the fact that cheating is cause for dismissal from the university, you are just short-changing yourself when you stoop to that. You're better than that, and UWSP is better than that.

Harassment: Be cool. Nobody likes a bully or a jerk. If we see any form of harassment, whether in the classroom or anywhere else on campus, we'll report it to the Dean of Students. Everybody is different, and we all deserve to be treated with respect.