

## Syllabus for Wildlife Conservation

Bio 2374: Fall 2009

[www.wtamu.edu/~rmatlack/bio2374.htm](http://www.wtamu.edu/~rmatlack/bio2374.htm)

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**Lecture:** 10:30-11:45, ANS 316

**Office Hours:** T, Th 12:00-1:00, W 10:00-11:00. I would be happy to schedule an appointment to meet with you at anytime I am available. You may schedule an appointment to meet with me via email or phone. I check my email and voice mail several times each day and will promptly reply to your messages.

**Text Books:** *Wildlife Ecology and Management*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed., E. G. Bolen and W. L. Robinson.  
*A Sand County Almanac: With Essays on Conservation from Round River*, Aldo Leopold (NOTE: there are several versions of this book, be sure to get the correct one as they differ significantly in content).

**Course Content:** This course will serve as an introduction to wildlife ecology and management and will focus on the wildlife of North America. We will begin with a brief examination of the history of wildlife management and wildlife policy in North America. The majority of the class will focus on important wildlife species, wildlife ecology, population biology, and other subjects of importance to wildlife management.

### Course Objectives:

1. Become familiar with format and style of journal articles (scientific papers) and nature writing
2. Understand the history and economics of wildlife management in North America including important wildlife policy issues
3. Become familiar with the natural history of wildlife species with historical, economic, regional or other significance
4. Develop a basic understanding of wildlife ecology
5. Examine the use of wildlife as a consumptive resource
6. Examine the relationship between wildlife and other natural resources

### Class Policies:

**Attendance** - I cannot imagine that you will find it possible to master this material without regular class attendance. Regardless of whether you are in class or not, however, you are responsible for everything which is discussed in lecture, any announcements made in class, everything which is assigned as class reading, and any handouts which are given in class. If you miss class, you must make your own arrangements for access to class notes or handouts from classes that you miss. I will not provide copies of my class notes except under very rare circumstances (serious injury, surgery, etc.) and by PRIOR arrangement only.

**Grading** – Your final grade will be based on your performance on 4 exams (3, 100-point lecture exams and a 100-point final exam) and 10 abstracts. The final exam will not be cumulative. Extra credit will not be given.

**Grade scale:** A= 90-100%  
 B= 80-89%  
 C= 70-79%  
 D= 60-69%  
 F= 0-59%

**Tentative Exam Dates:**

Exam 1 TUE, 15 September  
 Exam 2 TUE, 13 October  
 Exam 3 THU, 5 November  
 Final Exam **10:00 am**, TUE, 8 December

	<u>Points</u>	<u>Total</u>
Exams	100 pts each	400
Abstracts	10 pts each	100
CV	30 pts	<u>30</u>
		<b>530</b>

**Makeup exams** – All exams must be taken at the times announced in class or in the syllabus. Make up exams will be possible only with a doctor’s letter or letter of absence for a school-sponsored event. If you have a serious reason for missing an exam, you must contact me BEFORE the scheduled exam period to notify me that you cannot take the exam (again, written documentation is required). You are then responsible for arranging with me to make up the test or quiz within two days of your return to campus.

**Note:** Exams are subject to change and I reserve the right to change any and all information contained in the syllabus.

**Academic dishonesty** - If you are uncertain about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please read the appropriate sections in the Code of Student Life (see additional information at the end of this syllabus). I will have zero tolerance for academic dishonesty. Instances of dishonesty will be punished to the fullest extent possible, including the receipt of a failing grade for the course. Take care to avoid the appearance of cheating! During exams keep your eyes on your own paper, keep books and bags closed, and put all paper away. **NOTE: All writing assignments, whether original writing or a summary of the work of others, must be written in your own words!**

**Course content:**

<u>Chapter(s)</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Readings</u>
None	Biological setting of the Texas Panhandle	
Ch1, 22	Introduction to Wildlife Management; Wildlife Policy	Ch1; Ch22 (pages 513-526)
Ch 2	Neglect and Exploitation of Wildlife Resources	Ch 2 (except section 2.5); Sand County, “On a Monument to the Pigeon”, p 116-119
Ch 3	Past Successes in Wildlife Management Important Wildlife Species	Ch 2 (section 2.5); Ch 3
Ch 4	Ecosystems and Natural Communities	Ch 4; Sand County, “Odyssey”, p 111-115
Ch 5	Carrying Capacity and Population Ecology	Ch 5
Ch 6	Animal Behavior and Wildlife Management	Ch 6
Ch 7	Food and Cover for Wildlife	Ch 7

Ch 8 Disease and Wildlife  
 Ch 9 Predators and Predation

Ch 8  
 Ch 9; Sand County, "Thinking Like a Mountain", p 137-141

Assignment Due Dates:

NOTE: Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date listed below or provided in class. If you are late for class your assignment is late and you will have points deducted or otherwise (see specific assignments and test make up information) penalized.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	
1 September	Citation for first abstract - *NOTE – I assign the article for abstract 1 – see class web site: <a href="http://www.wtamu.edu/~rmatlack/bio2374.htm">http://www.wtamu.edu/~rmatlack/bio2374.htm</a>	
8 September	Abstract 1 *NOTE – I assign the article for abstract 1	State/regional
22 September	Abstract 2	State/regional
29 September	Abstract 3	State/regional
6 October	Abstract 4	State/regional
20 October	Abstract 5	Taxon/National/International
27 October	Abstract 6	Taxon/National/International
3 November	Abstract 7	Taxon/National/International
10 November	Abstract 8	Taxon/National/International
17 November	Abstract 9	Taxon/National/International
24 November	Abstract 10	Taxon/National/International
TBA	CV assignment	

**Reading schedule for “A Sand County Almanac”**

Exam 1	Through Page 98
Exam 2	Page 101 through page 233
Exam 3	Page 237 through top of page 264 (this is a short section but is a difficult but important read, pay close attention!)
Final exam	Remainder of book

**Students with Disabilities:**

WTAMU seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student’s responsibility to register with Disability Support Services and to contact the faculty member in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodations.

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**Safety:**

Safety is everyone's responsibility. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) are provided for all chemicals used in this class. MSDSs provide information about physical properties, health risks, fire and explosion data, and other important information associated with these chemicals. Before handling or using a chemical, you should refer to the MSDS for that chemical. It is your responsibility to inform the instructor in writing of any health conditions that may prevent you from safely using a chemical (pregnancy, auto immune deficiency, etc.). It is also the responsibility of the student to report any spills or problems found while storing or using a chemical. If you are unsure about a chemical, always ask. If you see any unsafe condition, notify your instructor immediately. If you are unsure about the proper and safe operation of any piece of equipment, ask your instructor for proper instruction. All injuries, spills of materials and unsafe conditions must be reported to the instructor immediately.

**Evacuation:**

When you receive notice to evacuate the building, please evacuate promptly but in an orderly manner. Evacuation routes are posted in various locations indicating all exits, outside assembly area, location of fire extinguishers, fire alarm pull stations, and emergency telephone numbers (651-5000 or 911). In the event an evacuation is necessary, evacuate immediately; do not use elevators; take all personal belongings with you; report to outside assembly area and wait for further information; students needing assistance in the evacuation process should bring this to the attention of the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

**Scholastic Dishonesty:**

It is the responsibility of students and instructors to help maintain scholastic integrity at the University by refusing to participate in or tolerate scholastic dishonesty. Commission of any of the following acts shall constitute scholastic dishonesty. This listing is not exclusive of any other acts that may reasonably be said to constitute scholastic dishonesty: acquiring or providing information for any assigned work or examination from any unauthorized source; informing any person or persons of the contents of any examination prior to the time the examination is given in subsequent sections of the course or as a makeup; plagiarism, submission of a paper or project that is substantially the same for two courses unless expressly authorized by the instructor to do so. (2009-2010, CODE OF STUDENT LIFE, Rules and Procedures for Students, West Texas A&M University).

A complete statement regarding scholastic dishonesty can be found in the Student Code of Life at <http://www.wtamu.edu/administrative/ss/code/code.html#procedures>.