

Syllabus for Wildlife Management

Biol 3374: Spring 2017

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<http://wtamu.edu/~rmatlack/bio3374.htm> (under revision and being updated this semester!)

Social media @TexasWildEdu (Facebook and Instagram required)

Personal sites: Facebook @Ray Matlack and Instagram@unlikelyprofessor

I am available most of the day and most days via any of the above contacts. I am happy to visit with you electronically (text, email, message), by phone (audio or video), and in person as soon as we can make the arrangements. Making use of technology expands greatly the speed at which you can reach me and seems appealing to many. Don't hesitate to take me up on my offer to meet face to face!

Meeting times: **MW**11:00-12:15, AC 208

HYBRID COURSE: First in-class meeting is 20 March; check your WTAMU email regularly!

No text book required

Course description: This course will provide students with an understanding of the science and theory of managing wildlife and habitats beginning with the fundamental needs of wildlife. The following topics will be examined: Use of natural and anthropogenic habitats by wildlife including grasslands, agricultural lands, urban environments, wetlands, and forests, direct and indirect management of wildlife including habitat management and the use of hunting and trapping to manage wildlife, exotic species and their impact on native species, the economics of wildlife and consumptive and non-consumptive uses of wildlife, and current threats to the conservation of wildlife and habitats.

Objectives/Student Learning outcomes:

1. Improve the ability of students to read and understand scientific literature
2. Provide students with practical experience using social media in a professional setting
3. Develop an understanding of the basic needs of all species of wildlife
4. Examine the application of theory to manage wildlife and habitats
5. Further the student's understanding of wildlife ecology
6. Develop the student's ability to think critically.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

Grading:

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

Points available

Quizzes	10 (drop lowest grade) @20pts	200 pts
Midterm (cumulative)		200 pts
Presentation		100 pts
Final Exam (cumulative)		250 pts
*Evaluation is subject to change		

Assessment/assignment Calendar (subject to change)

Week 1: 17-22 January		
Week 2: 23-29 January		
Week 3: 30 January – 5 February		
Quiz 1	5 February started by midnight	Covers quiz material from start of class through 29 January
Week 4: 6-12 February		
Quiz 2	12 February started by midnight	30 January through 5 February
Week 5; 13-19 February		
Quiz 3	19 February started by midnight	6 through 12 February
Week 6; 20-26 February		
Quiz 4	26 February started by midnight	13 through 19 February
Week 7; 27 February – 5 March		
Quiz 5	5 March started by midnight	20 through 26 February
Week 8; 6-12 March		
No quiz	12 March	
Week 9; 13-19 March	Spring Break	
No quiz	19 March	

Week 10; 20-26 March		
20 March	Midterm	First in-class meeting
22 March	In-class lectures begin	
Quiz 6	26 March started by midnight	27 February through 19 March
Week 11; 27 March – 2 April		
Quiz 7	2 April started by midnight	20 through 26 March
Week 12; 3-9 April		
Quiz 8	9 April started by midnight	27 March through 2 April
Week 13; 10-16 April		
12 April	Student presentations	
Quiz 9	16 April started by midnight	3 through 9 April
Week 14; 17-23 April		
17 April	Student Presentations	
19 April	Student Presentations	
Quiz 10	23 April started by midnight	10 through 16 April
Week 15; 24-30 April		
24 April	Student Presentations	
26 April	Student Presentations	
Quiz 11	30 April started by midnight	17 through 23 April
TBA	Final Exam (in-class and cumulative)	

*Additional assignments will be given, as necessary, to facilitate learning of the material or to help meet the course objectives.

Explanation of evaluation:

Quizzes will cover all material provided or discussed during the time period listed in the assignment calendar above. Be sure to look over all notes, readings, guest speakers and social media sites including live broadcasts, videos, photographs etc. You will take your quizzes on WTClass and **missed quizzes cannot be made up for any reason** so use the week quizzes are available very carefully and avoid waiting until the last minute to take quizzes. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

The **midterm exam** is cumulative and will cover all material to this point in the course including the orders of birds.

The **final exam** in lecture is cumulative and will consist mostly of short answer, multiple choice, fill in the blank, matching, etc.

Class Policies:

Hybrid course design and reasoning:

It's been said that lecturing is not the most efficient way to educate students and I've come to accept portions of this statement. A hybrid course, portions delivered online and portions delivered in person, for my teaching style, seem ideal in a number of ways. Basically, students get up to speed on course content and then we come together for lecture/discussion and more, as an informed group. Lab time is concentrated in blocks for field trips and field time with less in-lab time with specimens in most cases. You will be following along, via technology and social media, with me on my trips exploring a different part of Texas each semester. I'll bring to your attention wildlife, habitats, conservation and management issues as I travel and we will discuss its relevance to your particular course(s) and wildlife in general.

A big change you will see is on-line evaluation and an increased opportunity for points in my courses. These exercises are designed to prepare you for your in-class evaluation later in the semester, much of which will be CUMULATIVE!

Policies and Responsibilities:

Cursing and adult language may be used by me to express enthusiasm, disbelief or other emotions when lecturing. I will make use of humor, make fun of myself and do just about anything to make lecture fun and educational for you and me. Further, comedic video containing profanity may be used to demonstrate lecture topics. I will not curse at or disrespect you!

Attendance - I cannot imagine that you will find it possible to master this material without regular class attendance in the lecture and the laboratory. Regardless of whether you are in class or not, you are responsible for everything which is discussed in lecture, any announcements made in class, everything that is assigned as class reading, and any handouts given out 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.

Makeup exams – All exams must be taken at the times announced in class or in the syllabus. Make up exams will NOT be given. If the student has a doctor's letter or letter of absence for a school-sponsored event, the exam missed will be replaced with their score from their cumulative final exam. 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. **If you are late to an exam and students have completed their exam and left the classroom you have missed the exam.** If you miss your presentation you may not be able to make up the assignment or you may be given an assignment that differs in format, number of questions, etc. from that given to the rest of the class on the assigned date.

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

Academic Integrity

All work must be completed individually unless otherwise stated. Commission of any of the following acts shall 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 exam is given in any 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. For more information, see the [Code of Student Life](#)ⁱ.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Classroom 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 (*Code of Student Life*). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. Inappropriate behavior may result in disciplinary action or referral to the University's Behavioral Intervention Team. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

ADA Statement

West Texas A&M University 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 [Student Disability Services](#)ⁱⁱ (SDS) and to contact faculty members in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodations. Contact Information: Student Success Center, CC 106; phone (806) 651-2335.

Title IX Statement

West Texas A&M University is committed to providing a learning, working and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free of sexual misconduct and discrimination. Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. Harassment is not acceptable. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here:

- WTAMU Title IX Coordinator Becky Lopez – Kilgore Research Center 147, **or** call 806.651.3199
- WTAMU Counseling Services – Classroom Center 116, **or** call 806.651.2340
- WTAMU Police Department – 806.651.2300, **or** dial 911
- 24-hour Crisis Hotline – 800.273.8255, **or** 806.359.6699, **or** 800.692.4039
<https://www.notalone.gov/>

For more information, see the [Code of Student Life](#)ⁱⁱⁱ.

Evacuation Statement

If 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 assemble 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.

WT Attendance Policy for Core Curriculum Classes

For the purposes of learning assessment and strategic planning, all students enrolled in Core Curriculum or developmental courses at West Texas A&M University must swipe their Buff Gold cards through the card reader installed in the classroom/lab for each class/lab meeting.

Chemical and Equipment Safety Statement

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 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 spill 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, spill of materials and unsafe conditions must be reported to the instructor immediately. Any pregnant students, or students planning to become pregnant, should consult their health care provider to determine what, if any, additional precautions are needed based on their individual situation. It is the responsibility of the student to communicate their needs to the Vice President for Student Affairs as soon as possible in order for risk-reduction to begin when it can be most effective, and to determine if additional modifications are necessary. While the university cannot mandate that the student notify that she is pregnant or is planning to become pregnant, the university strongly recommends that students provide notification so appropriate steps can be taken to ensure the health of both parent and child. To communicate health circumstances or to request additional information, please contact the Vice President for Student Affairs.

Student Laboratory Safety Training

An online Student Laboratory Safety Training may be required and assigned through WTClass upon registration for this class. By registering for this class, the student agrees to complete the assigned training (if needed), no later than 12th class day for fall/spring terms or 5th class day for summer terms and acknowledge non-participation in activities if not completed by 18th class day for fall/spring terms; 10th class day for summer terms.

Course content:

Topics

Habitat and habitat management

Urban wildlife

Wildlife and rangelands

Wildlife and farmlands

Wildlife and water

Hunting and trapping

Wildlife harvest

Exotic wildlife

Economics of wildlife

Conservation biology and wildlife management

Forest management and wildlife

Wildlife in parks and refuges

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ⁱ <http://www.wtamu.edu/webres/File/Student%20Life/2014-15CodeOfStudentLife.pdf>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.wtamu.edu/student-support/disability-services.aspx>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.wtamu.edu/webres/File/Student%20Life/2014-15CodeOfStudentLife.pdf>