

BIO 4053.001 – Wildlife Biology

COURSE POLICY & SYLLABUS – Spring 2009

INSTRUCTOR

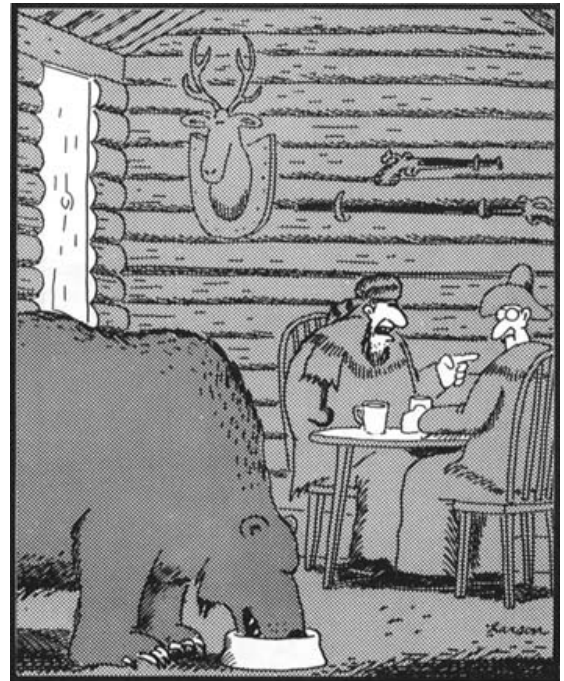
Dr. Diana Doan-Crider
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SCHEDULE

TTh: 11:00 am – 12:15 pm
HSS 3.04.26

COURSE OBJECTIVES

My goal in this class is give you the foundational knowledge about wildlife management upon which you can build a career in natural resources, and teach you to think like a scientist in the field. Regardless of whether you pursue a degree in wildlife biology or a related field, you will probably have to spend the rest of your life having to solve problems or ask and answer questions about animals, their habitats, and their inter-relationships. In any case, I hope this class will make you a better-rounded person in your chosen career, and help you to understand some of the issues facing wildlife today.



"Raised the ol' girl from a cub, I did. . . . 'Course, we had to get a few things straight between us. She don't try to follow me into town anymore, and I don't try and take her food bowl away 'til she's done."

Overall Objectives:

- ◆ To understand the basic principles of the ecology and management of wildlife populations;
- ◆ To learn about historical foundations of wildlife management, current principles and techniques, and factors influencing wildlife populations;
- ◆ To discuss legal and political aspects of wildlife management;
- ◆ To gain field experience in wildlife management, and interact and learn about the profession.

Specific Objectives:

1. You will be taught that wildlife and range management is a combination between science and art, and that simple formulas don't always work;

2. You will be exposed to all aspects of wildlife management: even the good, the bad, and the ugly;
3. You will be taught to ask scientific questions, and learn how to answer these questions with consideration of the complexities and variability of wildlife studies in the field;
4. You will learn writing skills in the range and wildlife field by participating in the assigned writing exercises;
5. You will learn how to problem solve by completing assigned team exercises;
6. You will learn networking skills in the range and wildlife field (career opportunities) by participating in the volunteer assignments and turning in assessment sheets
7. You will learn how to speak in public, and learn to use Power point as a public speaking tool.

TEXTS - required

Wildlife Management and Ecology – 5th Edition
E. G. Bolen and W. L. Robinson, Prentice Hall
At UTSA Bookstore

COURSE POLICY

Part of my goal in this course is to prepare you for the real world, and make sure you are marketable in the very competitive field of natural resources. So, in this course, you will be trained and treated as if you were real employees. Part of that training includes teaching you to be responsible, capable, and timely.

ATTENDANCE AND LATE POLICY

1) ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY.

- i) If you want to keep from being fired, you show up for your job. If you want to keep from dropping this class or failing, you show up for class...every class.
- ii) There will be a sign-in sheet at the door for each class period – if you are not listed, you will be counted as absent.

2) After TWO unexcused absences, your grade will be dropped by ONE LETTER GRADE

- i) There are no exceptions
- ii) After 5 unexcused absences, you will be asked to drop the class.

3) Excused absences are accepted with advance notice, or with a physicians note.

- i) The day after class is NOT advanced notice. If you are stuck somewhere, had an accident, or start having violent convulsions after eating some bad eggs, either call and leave a message or send me an email BEFORE or DURING class.

- ii) If you get sick, GET A SLIP FROM THE DOCTOR.
 - iii) I'm sure you are all as honest as Abe Lincoln, but I can't tell who's fibbing and who's not – everyone will be treated the same.
- 4) **YOU WILL BE ON TIME.**
- i) Class does not start at 11:10 am, it starts at 11:00 am **SHARP**. If you are 5 minutes late, you will lose 5 points. If you show up 10 minutes late, you will lose 10 points. If you are later than 10 minutes, you will not be allowed into class for that day.
 - ii) *NOTE: you will have weekly quizzes during the first 10 minutes of class. Late arrivals will not be allowed to take the quiz for that day.

COURTESY AND RESPECT

- 1) **NO INTERRUPTIONS** unless it is part of the class discussion.
 - i) Chatting while the instructor or another student is talking to the class is not accepted.
- 2) **RUDE BEHAVIOR IS NOT TOLERATED.**
 - i) Anyone who rolls their eyes, talks back, or has a problem with being obnoxious, will be quickly escorted out of the classroom and to the Kingdom of Drop-Add. I am not a babysitter and simply won't put up with it.
- 3) **CELL PHONES OFF / NO TEXTING/ NADA.**
 - i) Turn them OFF when you get into the classroom.
 - ii) Each ring will cost you 10 points.
- 4) **NO FOOD IN CLASS**
 - i) Coffee, soda, or water are fine, but please clean up your mess.
- 5) **NO CHEWING TOBACCO ALLOWED IN CLASS.** Yuck.
- 6) **NO SLEEPING IN CLASS.**
 - i) You will be rudely awakened in front of everyone.
- 7) **SWEARING IS NOT ALLOWED.**
 - i) It is unbecoming and unprofessional, and the rest of us don't like the smell.
- 8) **THERE IS A DRESS CODE FOR THIS CLASS.**
 - i) I expect you to dress as a professional adult (i.e., no unnecessary sloppiness, and no belly buttons, rear-ends, or other related items within view of the rest of us who don't care to see it). Start being a professional now. We will be bringing in some of

your potential employers; their first impression of you may be based on your smelly old sweats and cut-off tee-shirt. No pajamas, no slippers.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Learning Disabilities: Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in class, should speak with me before class begins. In accordance with federal laws, a student requesting special accommodations must provide documentation of their disability to UTSA.

Sexual misconduct or harassment: Sexual harassment of students and employees at UTSA is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

Academic misconduct:

You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with your Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures.

Forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Cheating: deception in which a student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations.
2. Academic misconduct: tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.
3. Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.
4. Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation and/or paraphrase of someone else's words, ideas, or data as one's own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the Internet and submitting them as one's own work also constitutes plagiarism.

Nonacademic misconduct: The University respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus conditions that do not impede their exercise. Campus behavior that interferes with either (1) the instructor's ability to conduct the class, (2) the inability of other students to profit from the instructional program, or (3) campus behavior that interferes with the rights of others will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such disruptive behavior may be subject to disciplinary action.

PLANNING AND ORGANIZATION

One of the keys to success is staying ahead of the game. Procrastination can be your deadliest enemy when it comes to your career. In a real job, you will have to juggle many projects and tasks, so begin to practice by keeping up with your classes, and you will become very marketable. Here are some guidelines:

- ◆ You will keep a notebook to organize your notes, handouts, calendars, etc.
- ◆ Review your notes at the end of each day – doing so will strengthen what you have learned that day, and save you a lot of cramming time in the future.
- ◆ Most important, people will SEE how organized you are, and immediately get the impression that you will be an organized worker as well – people like that get the good jobs.

I have very favorable conditions for people who can follow these guidelines; I have drop slips for those who don't.

TEAMS

You will be assigned to a team at the beginning of the semester, and will work closely together for the remainder of the course. Teams will serve several purposes:

1. To study in groups
2. To compete against other groups in problem solving exercises.
3. To remind one another about quizzes, or to simply wake you up in the morning if necessary
4. We can track individuals if they have any problems throughout the semester.

EXAMS & QUIZZES

1) QUIZZES

- i) There will be a total of 20 quizzes worth 10 points each during the semester. This means that you will have quizzes for almost EACH CLASS PERIOD.
- ii) Quizzes will cover READING ASSIGNMENTS, some lecture material, and other activities.
- iii) There will be no make-up quizzes for excused absences, but I will use the average of all of your quizzes for any missing scores.
- iv) Quizzes will total the score of 2 exams (200 points).
- v) Why do I do it this way? I want to teach you not to procrastinate, and to actually LEARN something. Cramming for midterm and final exams is NOT how you learn.

2) EXAMS

- i) There will be NO exams during the semester, but there will be a comprehensive (and difficult) FINAL exam

