Large Mammal Ecology and Management
WIS 4934 0245 / WIS 6934 22BE

Spring 2018
T/TH 10:00-11:30 am
McCarty B Rm 3096
3 credits

Instructor:
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Office Hours: T/TH 11:30 am-12:30 pm (or by appointment)

Course Description:

Welcome to Large Mammal Ecology and Management! Large mammals are fascinating creatures that interact with the coupled human and natural systems that they occupy in complex ways. Their dynamics are driven by abiotic and biotic conditions as well as human impacts, while they in turn play significant roles in shaping the diverse landscapes they inhabit. As such, large mammal management drives many of the overarching environmental issues faced around the globe. In this course, we will take a critical approach to examining current advances and controversies involving large mammals. We will focus on North America as a focal region, but will also explore international contexts where relevant.

The objectives of this course are to:

1. Explore the main concepts that have shaped the evolving field of large mammal ecology
2. Outline the nature and impacts of key large mammal management strategies in different biological and social contexts
3. Examine case studies that provide real-world context for the broader concepts involved in large mammal ecology and management

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a working knowledge of the ecology of large mammals with respect to several major areas (e.g., diet, population regulation, behavioral ecology)
2. Appreciate the complexity of large mammal management issues and be able to target possible solutions
3. Articulate examples of real-world large mammal management strategies and explain reasons behind their varied levels of success in different socio-ecological contexts

Target audience:

This course is designed for upper-level undergraduate and graduate students. Students from different backgrounds and fields are all welcome.

Course components:

This course relies heavily on active student participation. While there will be some short lectures, the course period will be mainly occupied by active learning activities. These will vary but may include group discussions, role playing games, scenario modeling, or case studies. Class attendance is therefore an essential part of succeeding in this course. Please clear any absence with the instructor (with advanced notice unless it is an illness or emergency). Any absence not cleared will result in 5 points off from the overall attendance score (total of 100 points). I also may deduct attendance points if a student is present but not engaged in the class session.

Course Webpage

The course will be maintained on the Canvas e-learning website https://elearning.ufl.edu/. All course materials (including lectures, readings, and assignments) will be posted here. Lecture slides will be posted here prior to each class meeting. Grades will also be maintained on the website. Please turn in any assignments via this website.

Readings

Readings will be assigned and should be completed prior to each class period. They will be made available on the course webpage. You do not need to purchase a textbook for this course.

Poll Everywhere

Each class period will include questions posed to the class that will be answered anonymously via the software program/app *Poll Everywhere*. There is no need to register or download the software. Please bring your cell phones and/or laptops to class. If you do not have either, you will not be penalized in any way and you can still participate via pen and paper. These exercises are not graded and are anonymous. Their purpose is to facilitate discussion and participation.

Reflections on Piazza

A discussion board will be maintained on the software platform called Piazza (http://www.piazza.com). I will post thought questions after most class periods. You can respond to the question or start a new thread with a new question or share and describe an article or news piece that you find that is relevant for the class. By the end of the course, each student should have 30 entries in the discussion board to receive full credit. If you exceed 30 you can receive up to 20 extra credit points toward your final grade (each extra post beyond 30 is worth 2 pts). These activities are designed to allow students the opportunity to further interact and reflect on what they learned in class.

Group Project

The third section of the course is devoted to case studies and will involve heavy student leadership. The class will be broken up into small groups and each group will choose a species or taxonomic group to present to the class for one class period. The group will be assigned the task of choosing assigned readings for the class, giving a short lecture/introduction, and involving the class in some type of creative active learning activity. Students will also be required to complete peer evaluations to document the contributions of other members in their group (peer evaluations will count for 15% of the group project grade).

Quizzes

There will be two short quizzes throughout the semester. They are multiple choice and will be open book/open notes but are likely contain material that is covered during class or in the readings. They will be administered electronically using Canvas. Quizzes should be completed individually (not in groups).

Take-home Exam

A take-home (open book/open notes) exam will be administered at the end of the course. Students will have one week to complete it. The exam should be completed individually (not in groups). Questions will be open-ended short essay and will require critical thinking and creativity. The exam is designed to synthesize information learned during the semester.

Research Paper (graduate students only)

Graduate students enrolled in the course will be required to write a research paper on a topic of their choice and present their paper to the class during the last few days of the course.

Extra Credit Opportunities

Students may attend up to 3 seminars held on the UF campus throughout the semester on topics related to large mammal ecology and management and write up a summary of the seminar. Alternatively, students can attend on online "webinar" of their choosing. The summary must directly connect the seminar to other topics we have covered in the class. Each seminar summary is worth 10 points of extra credit. Please submit all three seminar summaries in a single file on Canvas by 4/24.

There will also be a competition for students to create the best original large mammal-related meme (or cartoon). Students can get 10 extra credit points for submitting a meme. There will also be small prizes given out for the best ones in different categories (voted on by the students).

See also the "*Reflections on Piazza*" section above for the third opportunity to gain extra credit points (for going beyond the required number of discussion board postings).

Grading:

Grades will be calculated as follows:

A (93% or greater), A- (90%-92.99%), B+ (87%-89.99%), B (83%-86.99%), B- (80%-82.99%), C+ (77%-79.99%), C (73%-76.99%), C- (70%-72.99%), D+ (67%-69.99%), D (63%-66.99%), D- (60%-62.99%), E (<60%)

Item	Points
Take-home exam	100
Group project	100
Reflections (30, 5 pts each)	150
Quizzes (2, 25 pts each)	50
Attendance	100
Total [b]	**500**

[b] Graduate students have an additional 100 points for their research project (total points = 600)

Please also see the UF policy on assigning grade points:
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx.

Class Schedule

Date and Topic	Assignments
1/9 Introduction	
ECOLOGY	
1/11 Species overview	
1/16 Values	
1/18 Diet/Nutrition	
1/23 Sociality	
1/25 Population Regulation	
1/30 Ungulates- Trends and Impacts	Grad Student Proposals due
2/1 Carnivores- Trends and Impacts	Quiz 1
MANAGEMENT	
2/6 Harvest Management Goals	
2/8 A Peek into the ESA	
2/13 Wildlife Ranching	Group Project Proposals due
2/15 Community-based Management	
2/20 Climate Change	
2/22 Guest lecture- Dr. Elizabeth Pienaar- panthers	
2/27 Guest lecture- Dr. Brian Scheick- black bears	
3/1 Guest lecture- Dr. Elina Garrison FWC- deer \<Spring break\>	
3/13 Management Synthesis	Quiz 2
CASE STUDIES	
3/15 Group projects	
3/20 Group projects	
3/22 Group projects	
3/27 Group projects	
3/29 Group projects	
4/3 Group projects	
4/5 Group projects	
4/10 Group projects	
4/12 Cross-species Synthesis	
4/17 Graduate student research presentations	Grad student papers due
4/19 Graduate student research presentations	Memes due
4/24 Agenda for the Future	
Finals	Take home exam due

Academic Honesty

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/.

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

- *U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392- 1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.*
- *Counseling and Wellness Center: http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.*
- *Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS) Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.*
- *University Police Department, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). http://www.police.ufl.edu/*

Academic Resources

- *E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learningsupport@ufl.edu. https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml.*
- *Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. http://www.crc.ufl.edu/*
- *Library Support, http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.*
- *Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/*
- *Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/*

Student Complaints

- *Campus: https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf*
- *Online Course: http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process*

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.