

WILD 180 - Careers in Wildlife Biology

Spring 2024 – 2 Credits

UM Land Acknowledge

"The University of Montana acknowledges that we are in the aboriginal territories of the Salish and Kalispel people. Today, we honor the path they have always shown us in caring for this place for the generations to come." -UM Diversity Advisory Council.

Instructor: Erim Gómez, PhD. Please call me Dr. Gómez or Dr. Gee!

Office: Forestry 309 **Email:** erim.gomez@umontana.edu

Students are welcome to follow me on my Public Research and Teaching IG: [@erimgomezphd](https://www.instagram.com/erimgomezphd)

Office Hours: Monday 2:00-4:00 PM, Thursday 2:00-4:00 PM, or by appointment.

Teaching Assistant: Xavier Lovato **Email:** xavier.lovato@umconnect.umt.edu

TA should be CC'd on all emails regarding assignment questions, scores, or other course-related questions. Inquiries unrelated to assignments or the class can be sent to only Dr. Gómez.

Lecture Times: 10:00 AM – 10:50 AM – Tuesday (T) and Thursday (R)

Location: Forestry 301

Class is Face to Face: Attendance is a requirement and is expected.

Classes are recorded live and will automatically uploaded to Moodle after class.

Learning Outcomes

This is a first-year 2-credit class and is taught as such.

1. Wildlife biology profession and associated career opportunities (60% of the course).
 - a. Learn to write an effective resume
 - b. Learn to write an effective cover letter
 - c. Learn where to seek career opportunities and experiences
 - d. Learn from the personal experience of wildlife and conservation professionals

2. Develop a basic understanding of wildlife biology and management (40% of the course).
 - a. The historical origins and development of wildlife management and conservation in North America, including the "North American" Model of Wildlife Management
 - b. Fundamental concepts underlying wildlife biology, management, and conservation

Note: *This is a Careers in Wildlife Biology class, not Introduction to Wildlife Biology. If a student wants to learn more about wildlife biology, please read and review every chapter of the textbook.*

Course Website

Moodle [UM Online](#). When you log in to Moodle, you can find and access our course website (WILD 180 – Careers in Wildlife Biology). There is an online Moodle 101 course to assist you in learning the basics of

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navigating and using Moodle. Moodle issues that cannot be solved using that training may be directed to Kaity.

Required Online Textbook

"Introduction to Wildlife Management and Conservation in North America." Chad Bishop 2023 et al., Readings ISBN: 9781680755978 Edition: 1. The online textbook can only be purchased from the publisher at <https://www.greatriverlearning.com/product-details/2122> or *UM Bookstore*. Please price compare. **The online digital textbook will go live on Friday, January 13, 2024.**

Each student will need their own copy digital textbook to take the quiz within the online textbook.

Additional readings will be posted on Moodle. Also, "A Sand County Almanac" by Aldo Leopold is recommended reading for all wildlife and conservation students, as it is often referred to as the "bible of conservation." But I would also encourage students to read, "Silent Spring" by Rachel Carson and "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

Class Material

Required: Writing utensils (i.e., pen or pencil) and notebook paper that you can turn in after class.

Lecture Schedule and Classroom Learning Environment

A lecture will be delivered each class period by the professor, teaching assistant, or guest lecturer. Lectures will be recorded and automatically uploaded to Moodle. **To allow time for quality classroom discussions, not all material contained within the textbook or reading will be presented formally during class time.** Thus, students will need to study all material contained within the textbook for the required chapter readings.

Think, Pair, and Share

We ask a lot of questions in this class. So we use the [Think, Pair, and Share Method](#). I will ask a question that may or may not have an answer. Students will write their answer(s) out, then pair up and share it with a classmate or two. I may cold-call students to share their answer(s) with the class after this exercise. Sometimes I will ask questions and call on students who raise their hands. I will never cold-call a student without doing the Think, Pair, and Share exercise.

Quizzes

There will be **10-12 digital textbook quizzes**. Each quiz is worth 10 points. **Generally, there are 5 questions per quiz and you will have 10 minutes to take the quiz.** The textbook quizzes will focus heavily on course material presented in the digital textbook, lectures, and associated PowerPoint presentations. All quizzes are open notes and taken outside of class. Students are on the honor system to work on their own. This is the expectation.

Zoom Recordings

Be aware that all classes are recorded.

Assignments

Four MAJOR assignments will be due throughout the course to enhance your learning of the course material. Students will be expected to complete the assignments outside of class and submit them through Moodle on or before the assigned due date. **In the event a student encounters a problem**

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uploading the assignment to Moodle, the student may email the assignment to the instructors and the TA. Assignments can be **docked 10%** for each day the assignment is late. After 6 days, no point will be awarded unless there is a documented and uncontrollable extenuated circumstance.

Grading Scale

A+ (97–100%), A (93–96%), A- (90–92%), B+ (87–89%), B (83–86%), B- (80–82%), C+ (77–79%), C (73–76%), C- (70–72%), D+ (67–69%), D (63–66%), D- (62–60%), and F(below 60%).

Quizzes

All quizzes are in the **online digital textbook**.

Textbook 10pts* Each

There will likely be between 10-12 quizzes. You will always have at least a week to prepare. In Moodle, please view the Quiz Due Dates tab or the Reminders tab to view quiz due dates. Don't expect me to announce them in class but I will try to do that. This is also why attendance is important.

No final exam but there may be a final digital textbook quiz(es). This will be a typical chapter quiz and not a final cumulative final unless there is poor quiz participation.

Assignments

Due Dates 11:59 PM On Moodle in PDF Format

My Wildlife Story	10pts	Thursday, Jan. 25
Resume	40pts	Thursday, Feb. 22
Cover Letter	50pts	Thursday, April 4
Long-Term Career Plan	20pts	Thursday, April 25
Job Board Pay Assignment	10pts	TBA
Optional Extra Credit Assignment	5pts	Thursday, May 2

Additional assignments may be added.

Please do not turn in assignments until the assignment details have been reviewed in class.

PDF Format

All assignments must be submitted to Moodle in PDF format by 11:59 PM. If any other format is submitted, the assignment will be **docked 10%**. If you don't know how to convert a document to a PDF please Google how to do it.

If a submitted assignment can't be opened, it will be the equivalent of not submitting it. That means you will earn a 0. Make sure your assignment is submitted in PDF format and it can be opened.

Rubric

Please review the rubric before submitting assignments. I encourage you to use the rubric to grade yourself.

Graded at Course Level

It is impossible to include everything in a rubric. **Thus, I reserve the right to dock points for anything that a student in this course level should already know, without having to have to add it to the rubric.**

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Forums and Discussions

Online Textbook Forums and Discussions **1pt** per forum or discussion.

These are due before you take the digital quiz for the chapter. See Moodle Quiz due dates or Reminder tab to see what forums and discussions are due.

Extra Credit

There will be **5-15 points extra credit opportunities**. This should make up for any minor grading discrepancies or low quiz scores.

No Final Exam

Please don't email asking me this question.

Last Day of Class

The last class will be held on **Thursday, May 2**. We will not meet during finals week. However, a digital textbook quiz may be due. See Moodle.

Late Work

Every assignment and quiz will have a **24-hour grace period**.

Please don't use this grace period as a defacto due date because you may forget to submit the assignment. If you do this, then you effectively defeat the purpose of the grace period.

Then **10% will be reduced for every additional day** for up to 6 days. **After 6 days, no late work will be accepted. The only exception to this would be documented extraordinary extenuating circumstances beyond a student's control.**

Asynchronous Days- No in-person class but class activity will be posted to Moodle.

Tuesday, Feb. 6

Thursday, Feb. 8

Tuesday, March 23

Thursday, March 28

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all classes in person. I will pass around a physical sign-in sheet for students to sign. **If you arrive after the sign-in sheet is passed around the class, it will be considered an absence.**

If you missed class, please watch the recorded lecture posted on Moodle before emailing me. Please never email me asking me what you missed because you can answer the question by watching the class recording.

All students get 4 free absences. No need to email the instructor or the TA regarding a single absence. It just fills our inbox. **Missing more than 4 classes however will result in a 3% total grade deduction, and missing 6 classes will result in an additional 7% deduction of the total grade. Having more than 6 absences will result in course failure.** Attendance is mandatory; your desire to learn and do well in the course will dictate your presence. Students are individually responsible for all information presented in lectures, guest lectures, assigned textbook readings, posted readings on the course Moodle website, and class assignments. In the case of medical or other reasonable reasons legitimate, planned absences, professional conferences, *I reserve the right to change the syllabus with reasonable notice given to the students.*

job interviews, or university-sponsored events, formal documentation may be required for legitimate emergencies may be excused.

I suggest checking your email before coming to class, as Dr. Gómez can get sick too.

Speaker Series

- A list of speakers will be posted on Moodle
- Speakers typically present on Thursday
- **Please ask questions to the guest speakers.**
- **Please do not have private conversations when a guest is speaking, or when I am speaking.**

Emails

Note: I receive 20-40 emails that are related to the work that I do for the university daily. I spend several hours a day reading and responding to emails. **Before emailing me, please read the syllabus to see if your question is answered in the syllabus.** Try to ask assignment questions in class when I ask if there are any questions. For questions you may not want to ask in front of the whole class, you may speak to me after class. If none of those options will work, please email me or see me during office hours.

Email Policy

All professors and TAs, not just Dr. Gómez, are *only* expected to respond to emails during working hours and on business days and generally respond within **two business days**. **Don't expect responses on the weekends or after 5 pm.** If I don't get back to you within **2 business days, please email me again. It is easy for an email to get lost in the mix.** To give you an idea of how much emails take up my life as a professor, I have sent nearly 10,000 emails since being hired by UM in August 2020. Any question that is answered in the syllabus, will get a reply that states the answer is in the syllabus. If there is confusion, then please mention this in the email so I can clarify and respond accordingly.

Audio Responses to Emails

I may respond to emails with a short audio or video clip to save time and be more effective. Please do not share or post these recordings. I do this because I can give students a quicker and more detailed response this way. **If you would rather have a written response, please say that in the email or reply asking for a written message.**

Sending the Professor or TA an email

I expect emails to myself and the teaching assistant from students to be **composed professionally**, with a **CLEAR** subject line that identifies the COURSE [i.e., Subject: WILD 180: Descriptive Subject Heading], and a clear, concise question. [Here is a link on how to email a professor.](#) As a professional, you will need to send lots of emails. Think of this as practice.

Email Example

Subject Line: WILD 370 Question on next week's assignment.

Hello Dr. Gómez,

I am a student in your Wildlife Habitat course. I have a question about the report due next Thursday and I was not able to find the answer on the assignment details. Should our report draw only on readings listed on the syllabus, or can I incorporate scholarly articles I read on my own as long as it fits with the subject of the assignment?

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Best,
Monica Rodriguez

Setting up a meeting

An Outlook invitation is required for meetings with me. Please send an Outlook invitation once a meeting time has been agreed upon, even if the meeting time is during office hours. **If a meeting isn't in my Outlook Calendar, don't expect me to be available.** If the meeting isn't in my Outlook calendar, the meeting does not exist. As a professional, you will need to send Outlook invitations. **Students are responsible for sending an Outlook invitation for meetings.** If you want to meet with me during office hours, please send an Outlook invite because I may already have a student meeting with me. Below are general instructions for sending an Outlook invite. However, there are multiple resources you can search for online if you need further assistance.

1. Home to www.umt.edu/my
2. See UMConnect Email www.umt.edu/umconnect
3. In Outlook Calendar, select New Appointment.
4. If you want, select Invite Attendees to add people and make your appointment a meeting.
5. Add people in the To field, and then enter a Subject, Location, Start time, and End time.
6. Select Scheduling Assistant to check the availability of attendees.
7. Select Send to send the meeting invitation.

[Tutorial for Outlook Application](#)

Lecture topic

Tribal Management
Introduction to a Writing a Resume
Historical Wildlife Management
Indigenous Model vs. North American Model
Cover Letter
Conservation and Environmental Philosophy and History
Wildlife Population Ecology
Home Range
Endangered Species
Illegal Wildlife Trade
Human Dimensions of Wildlife
Science vs. Advocacy
Your Future in Conservation

Class Tips

- You are all emerging professionals. Thus don't make your solvable problems the professor's or the TA's problem.
- Due dates matter, turn things on on time, and don't rely on the 24-hour grace period.
- Students typically don't fail my courses if they submit all quizzes and assignments on time.
- It is your responsibility to check readings, assignments due dates, and quiz due dates before class.
- You control the power to succeed or fail this course.

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Academic Dishonesty

The assignments and assessments are designed to help students learn concepts and skills and demonstrate mastery of them. The students themselves must do the work. Academic misconduct includes taking shortcuts, exploiting loopholes, gaming the system, or not following assignment instructions honestly—no use of artificial intelligence to write papers or other assignments.

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. Plagiarism qualifies as academic misconduct. Students often misunderstand plagiarism, particularly when reporting information from the web or other digital sources. Anytime a student extracts information from another source for an assignment or paper, students must cite the source. If a student includes text verbatim, students must place the text in quotes and cite the source accordingly. We are less concerned with the format of a student's citations at this point than the fact that the student attempts to appropriately reference the source.

A student will receive a zero for an assignment if there is academic misconduct. Further, a student may fail the course and be reported to the Academic Dean (or designee) and Academic Conduct Board which may have their sanctions as per the Student Conduct Code.

Accessibility Statement

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and the Office for Disability Equity (ODE). If you anticipate or experience barriers based on disability, please contact the ODE at (406) 243-2243, ode@umontana.edu, or visit www.umt.edu/disability for more information. Retroactive accommodation requests will not be honored, so please, do not delay. As your instructor, I will work with you and the ODE to implement an effective accommodation, and you are welcome to contact me privately if you wish.

Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Office for Student Success for support. There is also the [UM Food Pantry](#). Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable doing so.

COVID Policy

- *Consider wearing a N95, KN95, or KF94 to class*
- Don't come to class if you have COVID symptoms
- Zoom into class if you can't come to class in person. No need to email the professor.
- Contact the Office for Disability Equity (ODE) if you need accommodation
- If you feel sick and/or are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, please don't come to class and contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330.
- UM recommends students get the COVID-19 vaccine and booster. Please direct your questions or concerns about vaccines to the Curry Health Center.

Curry Health Center Counseling

Counseling assists students by addressing their counseling and psychotherapy needs to help them gain the most from their time on campus. When a student's mental health care needs are beyond the scope of our services, we will assist with referrals to community-based providers for specialized or longer-term care.

Services provided:

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- Individual Counseling (telecounseling only)
- Group Therapy - (telecounseling only)
- Topical Seminar - (telecounseling only)
- Urgent one-time Appointments Available
- Limited Psychological Assessments
- Psychiatric Consultation
- Consultation with concerned others
- Referrals to community-based resources
- Behavioral Health Options for alcohol, other drugs, gambling, and weight management

Call 406-243-4712 to make an appointment. For crisis, call the National Suicide Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255, contact the Crisis Text Line: text MT to 741-741, or contact your nearest Emergency Department.

From Curry Health Center Counseling Services: We provide a confidential and inclusive environment to address the personal, behavioral, and mental health needs of all UM students. We specialize in addressing the concerns and goals of our diverse UM community. Every student must navigate a wide variety of stressors and challenges during their college career and we're here to offer support as well as assist in getting connected to resources on and off campus. Our licensed counselors, social workers, and psychologists, as well as advanced graduate students, offer individual and group therapy in addition to urgent counseling.

Classroom Etiquette

As a learning community, it is important for us to work together to ensure that we are fostering a positive and respectful learning environment for all. Below are some selected guidelines.

- Please ensure that you are prepared for class by doing the assignments, having supplies in hand, and being prepared to learn and participate.
- Note-taking with devices (e.g. laptops, iPads) is allowed, but please stay on task. Doing other homework, checking your Reddit, Snapchat, TikTok, Instagram, stocks, or anything else not related to the class is not only distracting to you but also to your neighbors.
- Please be considerate about your food choices, especially those that are noisy or particularly odorous. *Coffee is encouraged.*
- Unless we are doing group work, please do not carry on private conversations with others.
- While I do want you to enjoy this course, please be respectful and act professionally towards your colleagues and me.
- Please do not text while I am lecturing. *Why? It is distracting to me.*

Title IX and Mandatory Reporting

Please be aware that all university employees must, within 24 hours of receiving the information, report information they have about discrimination based on sex and sexual harassment involving students, as defined by UM's Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation Policy, to the EO/Title IX Coordinator. The employee must provide the EO/Title IX Coordinator with all information they have directly related to the incident. This includes but is not limited to the names of people involved, as well as facts, including the date(s), time(s), and location(s). Dr. Gómez is subject to this reporting.