

## Syllabus: WILD 370 Wildlife Habitat Conservation & Management, Fall 2011 – 3 Credits



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Office Hours are 13:00-14:00 T/Thur, or by appointment\* (see email policy)

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Office hours TBD, O-JOUR 108

**Lecture times:** 12:10 – 1:00 PM Tuesday and Thursday (FOR 301)

**Prerequisites:** Ecology (BIOE 370/371) or equivalent upper-division ecology course, and junior standing in Wildlife Biology.

**Laboratory (field trip) times:** 1:00 – 5:00 pm Thur on specified dates in the semester. Also note, there will be an intensive 3-day field trip from September 23-25 to the Northern Great Plains ecosystem around Charles M. Russell Wildlife Refuge. If you cannot attend this field trip, students will have to take WILD 370 in Spring 2012 semester. No exceptions.

**Course Objectives:** To gain familiarity with the theoretical importance of habitat to wildlife in terrestrial ecosystems, and to gain proficiency with the application of theory to wildlife habitat conservation issues. Practical hands on experience will be gained on field trips during the semester where students will be expected to be able to apply theories to practical conservation issues in Montana.

**Required Readings:** Assigned readings from textbooks, scientific papers, and other readings will be posted on blackboard PRIOR to class – students are expected to have read the readings and be prepared to discuss them in class.

**Course Website:** MOODLE <http://umonline.umt.edu/> Students will need an active CFC login accounts to access the computer lab and UM NetID to access the Moodle class webpage. Take the UM Online 101 course to learn more about Moodle.

**Final Exam Time:** 10:00 - 12:00, Monday Dec 12, 2011. *Note: final exam times are YOUR responsibility to confirm and conflicts need to be taken into account during registration. If you have a conflict, it is your responsibility to change your schedule or talk to professors early. No extra exams will be scheduled to*

accommodate conflicts after the last drop date. See here:

<http://umt.edu/registrar/students/finalsweek2/Autumn.aspx>

### **Grading:**

Category	Description	Marks	%
<u>Exams</u>	Midterm 1	50	20%
	Final Exam	50	20%
<u>Lab reports</u>	Lab reports	50	20%
<u>Review Topic</u>	Annotated Bibliography	25	10%
	Oral Presentation	50	20%
	Summary Paper	25	10%
		250	100%

### **Lecture Format:**

Lectures will be primarily PowerPoint based and made available on the course website AFTER lectures for downloading and reviewing. However, additional material will be covered not contained in PowerPoint presentations and will be considered part of testable class content. Additional materials will include class discussions, films, discussion of current events, and questions.

### **Lab Format:**

During Fall 2011, there will be 3 scheduled labs on Sept 15, Sept 29 and Nov 17 from 12:00 to 6:00 PM, PLUS a major field trip to Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge Sept 23-25 in conjunction with WILD 470. There will be 4 mandatory lab assignments that will constitute a major part of your grade. Labs will leave promptly at the start of class time from the Forestry parking lot, regardless of inclement weather. For many labs, we will leave during lecture time to maximize time in the field, and some field trips will return students to campus later than the scheduled field time (see schedule for details).

**Participation in all field trips is mandatory and students are expected to schedule all labs for the allotted time, get off work, make alternate arrangements for other courses, etc. etc. FIELD TRIPS ARE A KEY PART OF THE WILDLIFE BIOLOGY EXPERIENCE!. An absence from a single field trip is an automatic 10 pt deduction (2.5%) from your final grade. Attendance on the special 3 day field trip to Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge is mandatory. If you cannot make this field trip, you must enroll in WBIO 370 in spring 2012.**

### **Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management Review Topic – deadlines Nov 1, Dec 1 and Dec 8.**

In this assignment, students will pick a topic of wildlife habitat conservation to review in written and oral presentation form. This is an example to dive into something that really interests you about wildlife habitat conservation, read as many papers and books you can about it, and then put it all together in an oral presentation and short written summary. **The only rules are that the species (or community of species) should be terrestrial mammals, birds, or herptiles, and must address aspects of wildlife habitat ecology and conservation.** We will spend 1 lecture going over examples of review/syntheses papers and example topics. There are several components to the review topic that will be completed throughout the semester including completion of an annotated bibliography, an oral presentation and a final summary paper.

## Draft Course Calendar

## WILD 370 - Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management

#	Date	Approximate Lecture Topic	Assignments	Labs
1	30-Aug	Course Introduction		
2	1-Sep	Defining Wildlife Habitat		
3	6-Sep	Niche Theory		
4	8-Sep	Habitat & the Niche		
5	13-Sep	Theories of Habitat Selection		
	15-Sep	<b>Lab 1: Habitat Fragmentation</b>		<b>Lab 1: Habitat fragmentation</b>
6				
7	20-Sep	Habitat Selection	<b>Lab 1 due</b>	
	22-Sep	Habitat Selection		<b>Lab 2: CMR weekend field trip Sept 23-25</b>
8				
9	27-Sep	Measuring Wildlife Habitat		
	29-Sep	<b>Lab 3: Community Based Conservation</b>	<b>Lab 2 due</b>	<b>Lab 3: Community Based Conservation</b>
10				
11	4-Oct	Community-Based Conservation	<b>Lab 3 due</b>	
12	6-Oct	Critical habitat & the ESA		No Lab
13	11-Oct	Island Biogeography Theory		
14	13-Oct	Habitat Fragmentation		No Lab
15	18-Oct	Habitat Fragmentation		
16	20-Oct	Threats Facing Wildlife & Biodiversity		No Lab
	25-Oct	<b>Midterm 1</b>		
17	27-Oct	Road Ecology		No Lab
	1-Nov	Corridors and Connectivity	<b>Annotated bibliography due</b>	
18				
	3-Nov	Modeling Wildlife-Habitat Relationships		
19				
20	8-Nov	Modeling Wildlife-Habitat Relationships		
	10-Nov	Applying Habitat Models to Conservation		
21				
22	15-Nov	Forestry, Fire and Wildlife		
	17-Nov	<b>MT Chapter of the SCB Conference</b>		<b>Lab 4: MT Chapter SCB conference</b>
23	22-Nov	Ecosystem Management	<b>Lab 4 due</b>	
24	24-Nov	<b>Thanksgiving Classes: No Holidays</b>		
25	29-Nov	Conservation Planning		
	1-Dec	<b>Student Presentations</b>		<b>Student presentations NAS 307</b>
26				
27	6-Dec	Habitat and Climate Change		
	8-Dec	<b>Student Presentations</b>	<b>Final Summary Due</b>	<b>Student presentations NAS 307</b>
28				
	12-Dec	<b>Final Exam 10:10 AM</b>		

**General Course Policies**

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance will not be recorded in lecture. Students are individually responsible for all information presented in lectures, guest lectures, readings and field trips. No make-up exams will be scheduled. In the case of medical or family emergency I will work with the student individually in terms of rescheduling exam times etc. Formal health care documentation will be required for legitimate emergencies.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Trust between student and instructor is of paramount importance in academic settings. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in the classroom, and students found cheating will be punished to the full extent that University policy permits. The University of Montana expects all students to conduct themselves as honest, responsible, and law-abiding members of the academic community and to respect the rights of other students, members of the faculty and staff and the public to use, enjoy and participate in the University programs and facilities. For specific information on the Student Conduct Code, visit <http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/documents/StudentConductCode1.pdf>

**Plagiarism:** Paraphrasing or quoting another's work without explicitly citing the source is plagiarism and a form of academic misconduct. Even inadvertent or unintentional misuse of appropriation of another's work (such as relying heavily on source material that is not expressly acknowledged) is considered plagiarism. If you have any questions about using and citing sources, you are expected to ask for clarification. This includes websites like Google and Wikipedia, although note that not all information retrieved (in fact most!) from such sites is not peer-reviewed, and thus not often scientifically valid.

**Credit for Work from Another Class:** Submission of papers that were written for credit in another class is not permitted, regardless of whether the subject matter is appropriate (as per the University of Montana Student Conduct Code). In other words, you are expected to turn in original work for this course. If you have any questions, whatsoever, it is better to speak with the professor or teaching assistant before you get a zero for an assignment.

**Mobile Phone Policy:** Mobile phone use is disruptive to both your own, your fellow students learning, and my teaching. No use of mobile phones will be permitted in class. Student caught using mobile phones for texting, phoning, browsing the internet will be excused immediately from class for the remainder of the lecture. After 3 such incidents, I will start by deducting one letter grade from the student's grade.

**Email Policy:** Email is perhaps the world's most banal form of communication, except text-messaging, which seems destined to erode any last remnants of skill in writing. I expect emails to myself and the teaching assistant from students to be composed professionally with proper sentence and English writing style with no spelling mistakes, a CLEAR subject line that CLEARLY identifies the COURSE CODE [i.e., Subject: **WBIO 370 question from student X**], and a clear, concise question. Because of email proliferation, professors often get >100 ill-formed and unnecessary emails a day, wasting everyone's precious time.

**Dropping/Adding:** University policies on drops, adds, changes of grade option, or change to audit status will be strictly enforced in this course. These policies are described in the course catalog and are YOUR responsibility to follow. Note that after the last day to drop courses, the 45<sup>th</sup> day of the semester, such changes are NOT automatically approved. I DO NOT sign drop forms merely for poor academic performance after the last drop date. Your grade is your responsibility alone. They may only be requested after this time by petition and include documentation of extenuating circumstances. Requests to drop a course or change the grade basis to benefit a student's grade point average will NOT be approved. **It is your responsibility to know the exact dates here:** <http://www.umt.edu/registrar/calendar.aspx> as well as general academic policy here: <http://www.umt.edu/catalog/acad/acadpolicy/default.html>

**Exams:** Mid-term exams will be multiple choices, true-false, short answer and short essay questions. Course material in lectures, labs, and readings will be considered for all exams. The midterm exam will cover all course content up to the class prior, and the final exam will be primarily weighted from material from the second half of the semester. But keep in mind that we will continue to build on the theoretical concepts discussed in the first half throughout! Time for exams will be allotted as the regular course time, 12:10-1:00PM, and no extra time will be given to take exams. Students arriving at a scheduled exam AFTER the first person to finish the test has left the room will not be allowed to take the test and will be assigned a ZERO. Failure to take an exam during the regularly scheduled time will result in a grade of ZERO being assigned. Make-up exams will be scheduled only given documentation of a valid excused absence (see attendance below) 1 week prior to the regularly scheduled exam time.