

WLDL 305 section 003	Black Bear Ecology and Management
Mondays, 5-5:50pm	Zoom!

Instructor: Cady Sartini

Office: 186 TNR (but, at home...)

Office hours: Mon 1-2pm & Tue 11am-12pm or by appointment

<https://uwsp.zoom.us/j/7153464546>

Email: csartini@uwsp.edu

Credits: 1 [1 credit of this course should be the rough equivalent of 48 hours of student work]

Course Description:

Lecture, project, and field experiences relating to black bear ecology and management. Topics include diet, space use, mortality, denning, harvest structure and methods, management plans, damage management, and public input processes. Special focus on the state of Wisconsin but will also feature range-wide consideration of various topics. Some field work required.

Course Outcomes:

Students in this course will be able to:

1. Explain basic black bear ecology and natural history
2. Relate common research methods used to learn about bears
3. Compare the different regional management plans for black bears, including plans for managing human-bear conflict
4. Understand the importance of bear hunting as a management tool and be able to explain some basics about bear hunting processes and culture

Evaluation:

Field Day	30 points
Find and Share	20 points
Participation	50 points

Field Day:

Field Day options will be set up on a TBD weekend (or multiple weekends) based on student schedules. Expect to spend at least four hours in the field (in Schmeckle) going over common field techniques, including searching for dens, telemetry, and bear handling techniques. If you are unable to attend the field day, speak with Dr. Sartini to come up with an alternate assignment.

Find and Share:

Working in a group, you will find a piece of relevant, primary literature and share it with the class in a 5 minute powerpoint presentation. You should be able to share the main messages of the article with two slides to show important images/points, especially relevant graphs or figures.

Participation:

Active participation in the class is expected. Plan on attending (and speaking in) Zoom sessions and keeping up with Canvas to take care of any weekly assignments that come up in a timely manner. Any weekly assignments that come up in Canvas are designed to improve the in-Zoom experience, so keeping up with readings and managing Canvas materials is expected.

Academic Integrity Statement:

All work submitted for a grade must be your own, unless group work is assigned. All text included in assignments that was written by someone other than the student must be correctly quoted and cited.

Tentative ZOOM Schedule:

Monday	Topic/Activity
Sep. 14	Syllabus planning
Ecology, Natural History, and Research	
Sep. 21	Bear home ranges and movements
Sep. 28	Bear diet
Oct. 5	Hibernation
Oct. 12	Role of bears in the ecosystem
Oct. 19	Research considerations
Oct. 26	UWSP masting studies
Conflicts, Use, and Management	
Nov. 2	Bears and attractants
Nov. 9	Bears and agricultural damage
Nov. 16	Bear attacks
Nov. 23	Bear hunting culture
Nov. 30	Management case studies
Dec. 7	Public input processes

Final Exam Period: Friday, 12/18 (12:30-2:30)