

WLDL 100 – Wildlife Profession and Preparation

Spring Semester 2024

Tuesday, 4:00-4:50 PM TNR 170

Wildlife Faculty

Dr. Marie Perkins (lead instructor), TNR 188, 715-346-2755, Marie.Perkins@uwsp.edu

Dr. Shelli Dubay, TNR 325, 715-346-4178, Shelli.Dubay@uwsp.edu

Dr. Jason Riddle, TNR 265, 715-346-3224, Jason.Riddle@uwsp.edu

Dr. Cady Sartini, TNR 186, 715-346-4546, Cady.Sartini@uwsp.edu

Dr. Ben Sedinger, TNR 342, 715-346-2529, Ben.Sedinger@uwsp.edu

Dr. Chris Yahnke, TNR 478, 715-346-2455, cyahnke@uwsp.edu

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course students will be able to:

- 1) Competently and completely plan their academic program for the wildlife major;
- 2) Articulate what wildlife ecologists do for a living;
- 3) Make an intelligent and informed career choice with respect to options in the wildlife field; and
- 4) Locate and effectively use resources to aid them in finding permanent and/or temporary jobs in wildlife.

Grading

The course is graded as pass/fail. You must obtain a minimum score of 70% on all assignments to pass the class. Percentage points will be deducted for missing class. Each missed class will result in 5 percentage points being deducted from your overall grade. **However, missing more than three classes will result in an automatic fail.** Excused absences are possible under special conditions or serious illness. Excused absences **MUST** be approved **in advance** by **contacting Dr. Perkins**. A roll sheet will be passed around in each class session. It is your responsibility to sign in during every class period. Failure to sign in will result in an absence being recorded.

The 3 core assignments are worth a total of 150 points. These assignments must be turned in by the due date. A penalty of 10 percentage points per day will apply to all late assignments.

You are expected to do your own work on all assignments. Plagiarized assignments indicate a lack of integrity not consistent with the wildlife profession and will be dealt with according to UWSP's Academic Misconduct Guidelines.

Tentative Timetable

Date	Topic	Assignments Due	Instructor
Jan. 23	Introduction, objectives, assignments, Homework 1 assigned		Dr. Perkins
Jan. 30	Careers in Wildlife, Homework 2 assigned		Dr. Dubay
Feb. 6	DIE		Dr. Yahnke
Feb. 13	Guest Lecture – Wildlife Damage		Marcus Mueller
Feb. 20	Guest Lecture – Working at the WDNR	HW #2	Zak Knab
Feb. 27	Advising, curriculum options, academics, planning, Homework 3 assigned		Dr. Sartini
Mar. 5	Guest Lecture – Working for the Feds		Dr. Brad Strobel, USFWS
Mar. 12	Wildlife Society		Dr. Riddle
Mar. 19	Spring Break		
Mar. 26	Guest Lecture – Working at a non-profit		Hannah Butkiewicz, TNC
Apr. 2	Extension and the Wisconsin Center for Wildlife	HW #3	Dr. Dubay
Apr. 9	Special Topics in Wildlife # 1	HW #1	Dr. Riddle
Apr. 16	Special Topics in Wildlife # 2		Dr. Sedinger
Apr. 23	Special Topics in Wildlife # 3		Dr. Perkins
Apr. 30	Professionalism		Dr. Riddle
May 7	Graduate School		All

*There is NO final exam for this course

CORE ASSIGNMENTS

Brief descriptions of the three required assignments are given below. More detailed information will be given out in class and posted to Canvas at the appropriate times.

REQUIRED ASSIGNMENT 1: Attend 1 student chapter of The Wildlife Society meeting and 1 Wildlife Seminar (50 points).

Professional involvement is a critical component of being a successful wildlifer. Wildlife Society meetings are typically Tuesdays at 5 PM in TNR 170. Wildlife Seminars occur on select Wednesdays from 4-5 pm in TNR 170 starting on Jan. 31 and running until Apr. 3. A detailed schedule of seminars will be provided for you on Canvas. Upload your responses to the Canvas dropbox for this assignment. **Assignment given out January 23, due April 9. This assignment is graded by Dr. Riddle.**

REQUIRED ASSIGNMENT 2: Research summer job and internship opportunities (50 points)

Obtaining field experience is a very important step in your professional development. In this assignment, you will search for three summer job opportunities and write descriptions of the jobs, any requirements, and application procedures. **Assignment given out Jan. 30, and hard copies of the assignment due Feb. 20. This assignment is graded by Dr. Dubay, but you can hand them to Dr. Sartini on Feb. 20. Homework must have job announcements attached (printed, no links to websites) in order for the assignment to be graded.**

REQUIRED ASSIGNMENT 3: Prepare a 4-year degree plan through graduation (2-year for transfer students) (50 points).

This assignment is designed to assist you in getting through your program in the most efficient way possible. This requires thought and foresight. Choosing your schedule each semester without thought for the future is a sure way to extend your stay and cost you thousands of additional dollars. Upload your submission to the Canvas dropbox for this assignment. **Assignment given out Feb. 27 and will be due April 2. This assignment is graded by Dr. Sartini.**