

WLDL 305 section 001	Black Bear Ecology and Management
Mondays, 5-5:50pm	TNR 359

Instructor: Cady Sartini (she/her)

Office: 186 TNR

Office hours: Mon 1-3pm (in the office)

Tue 9-11am (Zoom; <https://wisconsin-edu.zoom.us/j/7153464546>)

Or by appointment

Email: csartini@uwsp.edu

Lead TA: Amber Smith

Office: 359a TNR

Office hours: Tues 9-10am and 2-3pm

Thurs 9-10am

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Graduate student: Jacob Bergstrand

Office: 315 TNR

Office hours: Wed 11am-1pm

Email: jberg392@uwsp.edu

Workshop TAs: Logan Maier, Cece Giesen, William Watry, Abby Mueller, Hayden Walkush

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 field techniques for working with bears, bear morphology, behavior, physiology, diet, mortality, denning, harvest structure and methods, regional management considerations, human-bear conflict, impacts of climate change and importance of bears to human cultures. Special focus on the state of Wisconsin but will also feature range-wide consideration of various topics. A weekend in the field at Treehaven is required from Oct 21-23.

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. Describe bear management and human-bear conflict as a function of black bear behavior and human values
4. Understand the importance of bears in ecosystems and to human cultures

Evaluation:

Field Weekend	30 points
Find and Share	20 points
Participation	10 points
Reflection	30 points
Professionalism	10 points

Field Weekend:

One required weekend in the field will take place from Oct 21-23 at Treehaven. Expect to spend most of the weekend in the field going over common field techniques, including searching for dens, telemetry, trapping, and bear handling techniques. If you are unable to attend the field weekend, speak with Dr. Sartini as soon as possible to come up with an alternate assignment.

Other Opportunities:

Other opportunities for experience (additional field opportunities, public input meetings, etc) may present themselves throughout the semester. Dr. Sartini will communicate these details with you via email or by announcements on Canvas.

Find and Share:

Working in a group of 2-3, you will find a piece of relevant, recent, primary literature and share it with the class in a 10-minute PowerPoint presentation. You should be able to share the main messages of the article with slides to show important images/points, especially relevant graphs or figures. Following the presentation, you will lead a discussion on the material for 5 minutes. Papers must be approved by Dr. Sartini in advance and will be scheduled according to the topic of interest. Some discussions may also be scheduled during the field weekend.

Participation:

Active participation in the class is expected. Plan on attending class weekly 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-class discussion, so keeping up with the readings and managing Canvas materials are expected.

Reflection:

At the beginning of the semester, students will be asked to set their own goals for the semester, including what they expect in terms of their own engagement in the class material. At the end of the semester, students will be asked to write a short reflection and evaluate their own personal growth.

Professionalism:

This class is designed to include a high degree of contact with professionals in the field, discussing sometimes controversial topics, and a weekend-long workshop at Treehaven. Professional behavior 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 Schedule:

Monday	Topic/Activity
Sep. 12	Syllabus planning What is a bear?
Natural History and Ecology	
Sep. 19	Bear diet
Sep. 26	Bear home ranges and movements
Oct. 3	Hibernation and reproductive cycles
Oct. 10	Ecological importance of bears FIND AND SHARE: --Immell et al. 2013 (Kaylie, Jessie, Stacey) good --Malcolm et al. 2008 (Tess, Emily K., Luke) good

	--Rogers et al. 2020 (Emily K. Jacob, Meg) good
Oct. 17	Workshop prep
Oct. 24	Managing bears in National Parks --w/Jacob Bergstrand
Conflicts, Use, and Management	
Oct. 31	Interpreting bear behavior --w/Jacob Bergstrand FIND AND SHARE: --Wilbur et al. 2018 (Erin, Emily E., Sierra) good
Nov. 7	Relocation discussion
Nov. 14	Bear diseases --w/John Tracey FIND AND SHARE: --Binnnger et al. 1980 (Avantika, Skyler, Logan)
Nov. 21	Wildlife K-9 Lab --w/Nils Pedersen
Nov. 28	Bear management in Wisconsin --w/Randy Johnson
Dec. 5	Damage management in Wisconsin --w/David Ruid
Dec. 12	Perception of agricultural producers --w/Jacob Bergstrand FIND AND SHARE: --Bowersock et al. 2022 (Nicole, Abby, Ava)

Final Exam Period: No final exam....

Additional topics (good for additional opportunities or find and shares)

Conservation (threatened/recovering populations)

Public input processes

Phylogeny/genetics