

Wildlife 372/572: Wildlife of North America

Spring 2020

Lec: Mon. and Wed. 9:00-9:50 pm—TNR 170
Lab: Section 001 Monday 12:00-1:50 pm—TNR 359
Section 002 Monday 2:00 – 3:50 pm—TNR 359

Instructor: Shelli Dubay sdubay@uwsp.edu TA: Alex Poncelet
Office: 325 TNR aponc975@uwsp.edu
Telephone: 346-4178
Office hours: Tues. and Wed. 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm or by appointment

Course Description:

As future wildlife managers, educators, interpreters, rangers, wardens, and naturalists, you need to know something about the wildlife in your area to enforce conservation laws, develop education programs, and respond to public inquiries. As a major emphasis in this course, we will explore the taxonomy, natural history, and relevant management issues associated with major groups of wildlife and fish species in North America. Priority attention is given to species of significant social or economic value, and also on species found in Wisconsin. The course will develop your identification skills and natural history knowledge.

Course Outcomes:

As a result of completing this course, participants will:

- (1) be able to visually identify >150 North American fish and wildlife species,
- (2) be able to differentiate and describe the life history characteristics of common fish and wildlife species,
- (3) identify the historic and present geographic range for wildlife species,
- (4) describe the relevant habitat features required by specialist species,
- (5) recognize and apply knowledge of species' natural history to describe its management implications for public use of and education about wildlife,
- (6) develop a "naturalistic intelligence" through observation and reflection.

Required Text:

Mammals of the Great Lakes Region (2017) by Allen Kurta. Available for purchase at the UWSP bookstore. This is a good time to start building your natural history library if you have not already!

We will also use various readings and videos which will be made available on D2L as the course progresses.

Optional texts:

Students will find field guides for birds, mammals, and fish (e.g., Peterson series) extremely useful in meeting the objectives of the course. If you have any field guides, bring them to labs. If you do not yet own field guides, they would be a good professional investment.

Power Points:

I will be using Power Point presentations extensively in lecture, especially to highlight identification features. I will post these on Canvas but encourage note-taking during class. Please recognize that these postings are not comprehensive in detail and are not meant to serve as a substitute for attendance or note taking in class.

Participation:

Your participation in this class is both beneficial to you and is vital to making the class work properly. I certainly welcome your contributions to class in the form of stories, personal experiences, pictures, and especially questions! I do not take attendance, but if you do not attend lecture it will be extremely difficult to perform well on exams.

Exams:

Exams are cumulative and will cover lecture and lab material. They will feature a mix of multiple choice, matching, and short answer questions, as well as include an extensive portion of wildlife identification from photos, slides, or specimens. Please note that although scientific names of species are provided during lecture, you will not be tested on them in this class. You will need to be able to spell the common names of all species we cover.

Quizzes:

While I do not take attendance, I will include unannounced quizzes (10 points each) throughout the course of the semester. These are not meant to be difficult but should serve as a reminder to keep up with course materials and provide some practice for exams. You can drop your lowest quiz grade. **QUIZZES MAY NOT BE MADE UP, EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF A PREVIOUSLY EXCUSED ABSENCE.....NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Field notebook:

Students in this class should take an active interest in improving their skills as a wildlife naturalist. To this end, you are expected to maintain a field notebook throughout the course of the semester which details your field experiences and animal encounters. These entries should include more than just what you identify during our scheduled outdoor labs, almost like a semester-long wildlife journal. Details on the field notebook requirements will be handed out and are in Canvas.

Laptops/phones:

Out of respect for those around you, please do not use laptops or phones in class, unless you have spoken with me beforehand.

Grading:

Evaluation:		Grades	
	<u>points</u>		
Exam 1	100	93% and above	A
Exam 2	100	90-92%	A-
Exam 3	100	87-89%	B+
Quizzes (6 @ 10pts each)	60	83-86%	B
Field notebook	50	80-82%	B-
		77-79%	C+
		73-76%	C
		70-72%	C-
		67-69%	D+
		64-66%	D
		62 and below	F
TOTAL	410		

In the event of an emergency:

In the event of a medical emergency, call 911 or use red emergency phone. Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide emergency responders to victim.

In the event of a tornado warning, proceed to the lowest level interior room without window exposure along the **hallway outside of the elevators on the first floor**, or in **TNR rooms 153 or 157**. See www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/procedures/other/floor-plans for floor plans showing severe weather shelters on campus. Avoid wide-span rooms and buildings.

In the event of a fire alarm, evacuate the building in a calm manner. **Meet in front of the mural on the TNR building**. Notify an instructor or emergency command personnel of any missing individuals.

Active Shooter – Run/Escape, Hide, Fight. If trapped hide, lock doors, turn off lights, spread out and remain quiet. Follow instructions of emergency responders.

See UW-Stevens Point Emergency Management Plan at:
<https://www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/default.aspx>
for details on all emergency response at UW-Stevens Point.

Wildlife 372 – Wildlife of North America
Spring 2020 – TENTATIVE Lecture & Lab Schedule

DATES	MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	MONDAY LABS <small>* indicates outside work</small>
Jan. 21-25	Class not in session	Course intro	No lab – Class starts on Wednesday
Jan. 27 – 31	North American Model	Classifications	No lab
Feb. 3-7	Squirrels and small mammals	Porcupines and other rodents	Legal classification of animals (356 TNR)
Feb. 10-14	Beavers, muskrats, rabbits	Mustelids	Squirrel dreys * (Schmeeckle shelter)
Feb. 17-21	Mustelids and Bears	Ungulates	Tracking* (Schmeeckle shelter)
Feb. 24-28	LECTURE EXAM 1	Canids	LAB EXAM 1
END MATERIAL EXAM 1			
Mar. 2-6	Fish (Raabe)	Fish (Raabe)	Fish keys (354)
Mar. 9-13	Felids	Bats	Deer aging (354)
Mar. 16-20	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break
Mar. 23-27	Birding 101	Cranes	Waterfowl (354)
Mar. 30-Apr.3	Upland game birds (Riddle)	Upland game birds (Riddle)	Birding in Schmeeckle* (Schmeeckle shelter)
END NEW MATERIAL FOR EXAM 2 (33% CUMULATIVE)			
Apr. 6-10	LECTURE EXAM 2	Marine Mammals	LAB EXAM 2
Apr. 13-17	Turtles	Snakes	On your own birding adventure* (no scheduled lab)
Apr. 20-24	Frogs/Salamanders	Crocodilians/Lizards	Herps (359)
Apr. 27–May 1	Lizards/Raptors	Raptors	Frog call survey during evening – more to come!
May 4-8	Conservation Concerns	Catch up	Exam review, field notebook due

Final Exam: Wednesday, May 13, 8:00 -10:00 am
(66% cumulative)