

**Tentative Syllabus for Biology 498/698**  
**Raptor Ecology**, Fall 2012  
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**OBJECTIVES:** To acquaint students with technical literature, taxonomy, species identification, behavioral, population, and conservation ecology regarding birds of prey.

**ATTENDANCE:** Attendance is required by UWSP policy – see the University Catalog. There will be two major exams, one on **29 October**, and the last test on **10 December**. Please make arrangements NOW to be present on those days (if you miss a test due to an unexcused absence, you'll receive a zero on said exam). If you miss a lecture you are responsible for getting missed notes from your peers. You will lose 5 unannounced points for each episode of disruptive/distractive behavior (e.g., excessive chatting and cell phone use in class).

**TEXT:** Bird, D.M. and K.L. Bildstein (Eds.). 2007. Raptor Research and Management Techniques. Hancock House, Blaine, WA., and Earley, C.G. 2004. Not required but an excellent and affordable text for identification is: Hawks and Owls of the Great Lakes Region: Eastern North America, Firefly Books.

**TESTS AND GRADING:** Each of the two exams will be comprised of two parts: one that covers identification (based essentially on slides; about 30 points) and the other part a blue book essay format, (based on lecture notes, and outside readings worth about 70 points; the second and last test will NOT be comprehensive re lecture and readings). Overall number of points for the class, tentatively = ca. 200). A curve may or may not be used for grading purposes, otherwise expect 90% and above “A,” 80-89% a “B,” 70-79% a “C,” etc. Scores within the above ranges will be assigned “+” and “-“ grades.

**OFFICE HOURS:** My office is Room 474 CNR; phone 346-4255. Office hours are 1000-1130 hrs on Tuesday and 1330-1530 hrs on Thursday. Note that my weekly schedule sometimes is influenced by unpredictable departmental and research activities. I appreciate your patience and understanding. Leave a note under my door, send an email, or leave a phone message if I'm not in the office at these times.

**NON-SPECIES IDENTIFICATION TOPICS:**

- Introduction: overview and Literature
- Reversed Size Dimorphism
- Population Ecology (Status, Lifetime Reproduction; Floaters)
- Migration
- Current Issues (Conservation, etc.)

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:** Know your rights and responsibilities by reading the following link: <http://www.uwsp.edu/centers/rightsRRBOOKLET8-2005-06.pdf>.

Let's work and think hard, and have some fun doing so!