

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 TAs: Logan Maier

lmaie203@uwsp.edu

Cece Giesen

cgies194@uwsp.edu

Graduate student: Jacob Bergstrand

Office: 315 TNR

Office hours: Tue 2-3pm

Email: jbergstr@uwsp.edu

Workshop TAs: William Watry, Abby Mueller, Alayna Reynolds

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, 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 Nov 3-5.

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 Nov 3-5 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—Bears in the News:

Working with a partner, you will find an examples of bears in the news to share with the class. You should be able to share the main messages of the article with one or two slides to show important images/points, especially relevant graphs or figures. Following the presentation, you will lead a thought-provoking discussion on the material for 5-7 minutes. Guidelines for the assignment will be agreed upon by the class in Week 2 of class and will be detailed on Canvas. 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 and academic 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*:

*Schedule depends on the availability of guest speakers and may be subject to change. An updated schedule will be provided on Canvas as things change.

Monday	Topic/Activity
Sep. 11	Syllabus planning What is a bear?
Natural History and Ecology	
Sep. 18	Bear diet
Sep. 25	Bear home ranges and movements
Oct. 2	Hibernation and reproductive cycles
Oct. 9	Ecological importance of bears
Conflicts, Use, and Management	
Oct. 16	Bear Management in Wisconsin --with Randy Johnson
Oct. 23	Managing bears in National Parks

Oct. 30	TBD
Nov. 6	BearWise, bear attacks, and human-bear interactions
Nov. 13	Relocation of nuisance bears
Nov. 20	Cultural and biological considerations of bear hunting
Nov. 27	Bear diseases
Dec. 4	Damage management in Wisconsin
Dec. 11	Perception of agricultural producers

Final Exam Period: No final exam....

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