

WLDL 305 section 002	Black Bear Ecology and Management
Mondays, 5-5:50pm	TNR 359

Instructor: Cady Sartini

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

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 30-31.

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
Lead a Discussion	20 points
Participation	50 points

Field Weekend:

One required weekend in the field will take place from Oct 30-31 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 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.

Lead a Discussion:

Working in a group, you will lead a 20-30 minute class discussion on a topic of interest. The mechanics of the discussion are up to you (powerpoint, handouts, activities, etc.) Topics must be approved by Dr. Sartini and 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 (and speaking in) all class meetings and keeping up with Canvas to take care of any weekly assignments that come up in a timely manner.

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. 13	Syllabus planning
Natural History and Ecology	
Sep. 20	No class
Sep. 27	What is a bear? (Phylogeny, morphology, identification, reproduction and survival)
Oct. 4	Bear diet, home ranges and movements
Oct. 11	Importance of masting - Nate
Oct. 18	Hibernation
Oct. 25	Role of bears in the ecosystem
Conflicts, Use, and Management	
Nov. 1	No class (weekend recovery)
Nov. 8	Bear hunting frameworks
Nov. 15	Managing bears in National Parks
Nov. 22	Urban bear conflict and management
Nov. 29	Rural bear conflict and management
Dec. 6	Rehabilitation techniques

Final Exam Period: No final exam....

Additional topics (good for discussions)

Diseases

Conservation (threatened/recovering populations)

Impacts of climate change

Managing bears and visitors

Bears and human cultures