

Course Syllabus

Wildlife 334/534 – Ungulate Ecology, Spring 2022

Instructor - Dr. Scott Hygnstrom, shygnstr@uwsp.edu, 715.346.2301

Class times - 8:00 - 8:50 am, Tuesdays and Thursdays; TNR 354

Lab times - 11:00 am - 12:50 am, Fridays; TNR 354 or arranged

Office hours - 9:00 - 11:00 am Thursdays and 1:00 - 2:30 pm Fridays; TNR 167
Please see me after class or make an appointment by email

Critical Resources

Online Content

Canvas >>> WLDL 334/534 Ungulate Ecology >>> Assorted modules

Announcements Check weekly for the latest postings on readings, assignments, and exams.
Also look in your email inbox for readings and assignments.

Syllabus Explore the resources, learning outcomes, assessment, course schedule, and other content that will help you do well in this course.

Modules Include online Lecture Materials made available through *PowerPoint* (PPT) files and *MS Word* Study Guide (SGs) files. Additional reading assignments may be available. Content is divided among Biology and Ecology (5 weeks), Species Accounts (6 weeks), and Management (4 weeks).

Quizzes Weekly quizzes and online exams will be posted in the online modules.

Textbook (rental)

Demarias and Krausman, eds. (2000) *Ecology and Management of Large Mammals in North America*, Prentice-Hall. Not required, but skim this extensive reference for detailed information and clarification of concepts presented online and in class. I will occasionally assign required readings from other sources.

Learning Outcomes

Students successfully completing this course will be able to:

- a) Describe the evolutionary origins and systematics of ungulates.
- b) Understand the role of body size as a central feature of ungulate biology and ecology.
- c) Describe the morphological and physiological adaptations of ungulates relative to food acquisition, predator avoidance, and social behavior.
- d) Describe the competitive interactions (both intraspecific and interspecific) and predator-prey relationships of ungulates.
- f) Identify all North American ungulates and their unique features, as well as some other selected species.
- g) Critically evaluate diverse sources of information about ungulates.
- h) Understand and appreciate diverse viewpoints regarding ungulate conservation and management, especially in Wisconsin and North America.

Course Format

WLDL 334/534 is a hybridized course that engages several sources of information and teaching approaches, including online content, in-person and online discussions, hands-on labs, field trips, and occasional guest speakers. Each week, you will review assigned PPT files, SGs, and readings on your own before coming to class on Thursdays. Weekly 10-point quizzes will be available online and are due before 8:00 am on Thursdays. This will be followed by student-led discussions of current events and the assigned materials either face-to-face in TNR 354 or online by Zoom. Fridays will continue with discussions, hands-on labs, guest speakers, field trips, and exam reviews when appropriate. The modality of each class meeting will differ

(In Person, Zoom, Outdoors, or Field Trip) as stated in the Course Schedule below and strangely enough will depend on the timing of my father's chemotherapy sessions and my need to minimize exposure to covid, cold, and flu viruses. We will talk about this in class on January 25. Participation in class will be an important component of this course, as all of you will benefit from discussions, external information, experiences, and varying points of view. Up to 3 points per class session will be available for participation.

Student Assessment

Quizzes – each worth 10 points will be administered before 8:00 am on Thursdays. Each will address content provided in modules with associated PPT and SG files available on Canvas.

Written Reviews – The Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society will host a virtual Annual Meeting online during March 7-10, 2022. Since many students and I will be participating, no class will be held on Thursday, March 10, 2022. In lieu of study materials and a quiz, all students are assigned to view two recorded presentations on ungulates that are offered online and write a 1-page review of each presentation. See the grading rubric below for expected content and details for the reviews. Written reviews are due at 12:00 Midnight on Wednesday, March 16, 2022.

Exams – two take-home Mid-term Exams and one Final Exam will be issued online during class. All exams are open book, open notes, open everything. I encourage you to work together to come up with answers to exam questions. For essay questions, however, I expect you to write your own answers. No cut and paste responses from a half-dozen students.

Final grades - will be assigned based on points accumulated from a combination of evaluations, including:

- 14 Quizzes (10 points each, minus one)
 - 2 Written Reviews (10 points each, see rubric below)
 - Participation (100 points, up to 3 points per class meeting can be earned)
 - 2 Mid-term Exams (100 points each, online take-home)
 - 1 Final Exam (100 points plus 50 points comprehensive, online take-home)
- Final grades will be based approximately on the following points distribution:
- | | | | | | |
|------------|----|------------|----|------------|----|
| ≥93% --- | A | 80-82% --- | B- | 67-69% --- | D+ |
| 90-92% --- | A- | 77-79% --- | C+ | 64-66% --- | D |
| 87-89% --- | B+ | 73-76% --- | C | <63% --- | F |
| 83-86% --- | B | 70-72% --- | C- | | |

Course Schedule

Week of...	Topic	Canvas Content / Additional
Section I - Basic Biology and Ecology of Ungulates		
Week 1 Day	Modality	
	Course Introduction	Ppt, SG
Jan 25 Tuesday	In Person	Evolution and Diversity
	Thursday	In Person
	Nutritional Concepts	Ppt, SG / Ch 6
	Morphology for Herbivory	Ppt, SG / Q1
Friday	In Person	LAB - Tooth Eruption/Wear
Week 2	Digestion and Rumination	Ppt, SG / Ch 6
Feb 3 Thursday	Zoom	Physiological Ecology
	Friday	Field Trip
	Rumen Morphology	
Week 3	Behavioral Ecology	Ppt, SG / Ch 9,
Feb 10 Thursday	Zoom	Sexual Segregation
	Friday	Outdoor
	LAB –Scoring, Camera traps	

Week 4		Resource Selection	Ppt, SG / Ch 9,
Feb 17	Thursday	In Person	White-tailed deer
	Friday	Field Trip	Habitat Management
Week 5		Population Ecology	Ppt, SG / Ch 4
Feb 24	Thursday	Zoom	Community Ecology
	Friday	Zoom	DISC - Predator-prey Ecology Mid-term I Review
Section II – Species Accounts of North American Ungulates			Mid-term Exam I due 12:00 Midnight, Mar 2
Week 6		White-tailed Deer	Ppt, SG / Ch 29
Mar 3	Thursday	Zoom	Human Dimensions
	Friday	Zoom	DISC – Management, DMAP
Week 7		Ungulate Research	WCTWS Annual Meeting
Mar 10	Thursday	No class	Wisconsin Ungulate Research
	Friday	In Person	DISC – Observations
			Written Reviews due 12:00 Midnight, Mar 16
Week 8	Modality	Elk	Ppt, SG / Ch 32
Mar 17	Thursday	Zoom	Human Dimensions
	Friday	Zoom	DISC - Management, CL, BRFA
			Spring Break
Mar 24	Thursday	No Class	Spring Break
	Friday	No Class	Spring Break
Week 9		Mule Deer, Black-tailed Deer	Ppt, SG / Ch 30
Mar 31	Thursday	In Person	Moose, Caribou, Muskox
	Friday	In Person	DISC - Species Preservation
Week 10		Pronghorn, Bison	Ppt, SG / Ch 27
Apr 7	Thursday	Zoom	Mtn Goat, NA Sheep
	Friday	Zoom	DISC - Economics
Week 11		Collared Peccary, Wild Pigs	Ppt, SG / Ch 21
Apr 14	Thursday	Zoom	Wild Horses, Burros
	Friday	Zoom	DISC - Invasive Species Mid-term II Review
Section III- Management of North American Ungulates			Mid-term Exam II due 12:00 Midnight, Apr 20
Week 12		Population Ecology	Ppt, SG
Apr 21	Thursday	In Person	Population Monitoring
	Friday	In Person	LAB - Harvest Management
Week 13		NA Model Wildlife Conservation	Ppt, SG / Ch 15
Apr 28	Thursday	Zoom	WI Deer Hunting Traditions
	Friday	Field Trip	Firearm Safety
Week 14		Deer Damage Management	Ppt, SG
May 5	Thursday	Zoom	Urban and rural
	Friday	Outdoors	Management Methods
Week 15		Ungulate Diseases	Ppt, SG
May 12	Thursday	In Person	White-tailed Deer, CWD
	Friday	Field Trip	Field techniques
Week 16		Finals week	Final Exam Due 12:00 Midnight, May 18
May 18			

Written Review Grading Rubric

For two recorded scientific presentations on ungulates provided by the WCTWS.

Responsibility	None	Incomplete	Complete
Title	None (0)	Incomplete (0.5)	Complete (1.0)
Presenter/Authors	None (0)	Incomplete (0.5)	Complete (1.0)
Objectives of presentation/papers	None (0)	Incomplete (1.0)	Complete (2.0)
Critical evaluation of methods	None (0)	Incomplete review of procedures used to achieve objectives (1.0)	Thoughtful review of procedures used to achieve objectives (2.0)
Critical evaluation of results and discussion	None (0)	Incomplete review of analysis and interpretation of data (2.0)	Incomplete review of analysis and interpretation of data (4.0)

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, College of Natural Resources Principals of Professionalism

The College of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point prepares students for success as professionals in many fields. As a professional, there are expectations of attainment of several personal characteristics. These include:

Integrity

Integrity refers to adherence to consistent moral and ethical principles. A person with integrity is honest and treats others fairly.

Collegiality

Collegiality is a cooperative relationship. By being collegial you are respecting our shared commitment to student education through cooperative interaction. This applies to all involved in the process: students, staff, faculty, administration and involved community members. You take collective responsibility for the work performed together, helping the group attain its goals.

Civility

Civility refers to politeness and courtesy in your interactions with others. Being civil requires that you consider the thoughts and conclusions of others and engage in thoughtful, constructive discussion to express your own thoughts and opinions.

Inclusivity

Inclusivity requires you to be aware that perspective and culture will control how communication is understood by others. While many values are shared, some are quite different. These differences in values should be both considered and respected.

Timeliness

Timeliness is the habit of performance of tasks and activities, planned in a way that allows you to meet deadlines. This increases workplace efficiency and demonstrates respect for others' time.

Respect for Property

Respect for property is the appreciation of the economic or personal value an item maintains. Maintaining this respect can both reduce costs (increase the operable life of supplies and equipment) as well as demonstrate respect for others' rights.

Communication

Professional norms in communication require that you demonstrate the value of your colleagues, students, professors or others. The use of appropriate tone and vocabulary is expected across all forms of communication, whether that communication takes place face to face, in writing or electronically.

Commitment to Quality

Quality is the ability to meet or exceed expectations. By having a commitment to quality, we intend to provide a learning environment that is conducive to learning. Intrinsic to this commitment to quality is defining expectation (committed to in a syllabus through learning outcomes), implementation (with quality control in place) and assessment (where meeting of learning outcomes is determined).

Commitment to Learning

Learning is a lifelong process. By being committed to learning you are providing a model for all to follow. This model is not only professor to student but involves all combinations of people within our university and broader community

Online academic Etiquette

We like to make some suggestions for good "digital citizenship" moving forward. First, please be aware that lectures (including your verbal questions, chats, etc.) are being recorded. If you don't want your video feed or image captured in a recording, then it is totally acceptable to keep your video feed "off". Verbal questions end up in a transcript. Chat-based statements also are recorded. Both will have your name associated with them and are part of the recorded lecture. This isn't that different from when you raise your hand to ask a question in class EXCEPT that there is now a recording associated with it. So, please take extra care to ask questions, answer questions, and use chats in a respectful way. Additionally, please keep in mind that your instructor's lectures are their intellectual property. In order to maintain a safe learning environment for everyone (so that students can ask questions freely and so that faculty can deliver material freely), it is critical that you DO NOT share Zoom links/passwords to lectures/discussion meetings OR Zoom recordings of the class with anyone outside of our class. Misuse of chats, sharing these links/passwords, or recordings will be considered a disruption of the classroom as a learning environment. Disruptions (even digital ones) could impact your grade in a negative way.

Academic Dishonesty and Late Work Policy

Adherence to this compact is required of the faculty and staff of the College of Natural Resources and of all students enrolled in College of Natural Resources courses.

Trust between students and instructors is of paramount importance in academic settings. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in the classroom (e.g., cheating on quizzes and exams) or in assignments (e.g., plagiarism). Academic dishonesty will be dealt with to the fullest extent permitted by University policy.

All late work, including exams, will lose a full letter grade for every 24 hours after the designated deadline.

Important Dates

The last day to add/drop without a grade is February 2, 2022. The last day to drop with a "W" is April 8, 2022.

In the Event of an Emergency

Medical emergency - call 911 or use the red emergency phone located in the lobby outside TNR 170. Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide emergency responders to the victim.

Storm/Tornado warning - Avoid wide-span rooms and buildings. Approved shelters in TNR are hallways and rooms without windows on the south side on the first floor (e.g., TNR 153, 157, and 159).

See <https://www.uwsp.edu/emergency/Pages/floor-plans.aspx> for more information.

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

Fire or other emergency requiring evacuation -

1. Pull a fire alarm and leave the building using the stairs and closest exit. Do not use the elevator.
2. Gather all classmates in the Sundial South of TNR. Dial **911** and call Protective Services at **715-346-3456** with information about an emergency and its location.
3. Ensure you are accounted for by your Faculty. Follow directions of fire, police, and Protective Services staff. Advise responding emergency personnel if anyone requires medical treatment. Expanded evacuation may be required depending on the hazards present.

See the UWSP Emergency Management website for more information

<https://www.uwsp.edu/emergency/Pages/floor-plans.aspx>.