

WIS 3401
Wildlife Ecology and Management
Spring Semester 2009
University of Florida—IFAS Plant City Education Center

- Instructor:** Dr. Steve A. Johnson, tadpole@ufl.edu
Office 813-757-2273, Cell 813-217-3692
- Office hours:** Mondays 1:30-4:30 p.m.; I maintain an 'open door' policy
- Office location:** IFAS—Plant City (HCC), PEPC Bldg. Room 110
- Lecture Schedule:** Mondays 6:00-9:00 p.m., PEPC Bldg. Room 117B
- Course Texts:** 1) *Wildlife Ecology and Management*, 5th ed., E.G. Bolen & W.L. Robinson, Prentice Hall, Pearson Education, Inc.
2) *A Sand County Almanac: With Essays on Conservation from Round River*, A. Leopold, Ballantine Publishing Group (*note: you need the version of the book that is ISBN 0-345-34505-3)

Course description, objectives, and format:

This is an introductory course to the wildlife profession and covers wildlife as a natural resource, with emphasis on principles of ecology, management, and conservation. It is intended to provide students with a broad introduction to the science of wildlife ecology and management, and is an interdisciplinary course that draws from many scientific fields.

By the end of the semester, students should understand the history and evolution of the wildlife ecology and management profession; know the people, agencies, and public policies that have and continue to impact the profession; have a deep appreciation for the ethics and philosophies of wildlife management; be able to articulate the numerous values of wildlife; have a detailed understanding of basic wildlife ecology, especially those factors that regulate fluctuations in wildlife populations; and be able to apply this knowledge to devise various strategies for managing and conserving wildlife. Students will develop a broad knowledge of the scientific basis for wildlife management through an in-depth understanding of basic wildlife ecology. The course is designed to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills, and to enhance the students' ability to synthesize information from a diversity of sources.

Information delivery will consist of lectures, supplemental handouts, class discussion/debate, and assigned readings. Attendance will not be taken, but students are required to attend lectures and participate in discussions.

Exams and assignments:

There will be 3 semester exams given during the course. Exams will consist of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, short answer, brief essay, and computational questions. Exam questions will come from material presented in lecture, supplemental readings, and assigned readings in Bolen & Robinson. Semester exams are not cumulative. An optional final exam, which is cumulative, will be given during the week of final exams. The final exam grade can be used to replace a lower semester exam grade or a missed semester exam. There are no make up exams for missed semester exams. All exams will be administered in class.

Each student will read Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac: With Essays on Conservation from Round River*, during the semester. For sections 1, 2, 3, & 4 of the book each student will provide a brief synopsis of the gist of the stories in the section, choose his/her favorite story within the section, describe why he/she chose that particular story, and discuss how he/she feels it pertains to natural resource conservation today. In addition to turning in a written report for each section, we will hold class discussion about each section. More details regarding these assignments will be distributed in a separate handout.

Points and Final Grade:

Points:	Semester Exams (3 @ 100 pts.)	300 pts.
	Writing Assignments (4 @ 25 pts.)	100 pts.
	SCA Class Discussions (4 @ 25 pts.)	100 pts.
	**Final Exam (100 pts.) can replace a lower semester exam grade	

Grades: **A** (90%>), **B** (80 - 89.9%), **C** (70 – 79.9%), **D** (60 – 69.9%), **E** (<60%) Final grades are based on percentages of total points possible. Scores on exams, writing assignments, class discussion, and the debate are not curved.

WebCT:

UF's Office of Academic Technology maintains the WebCT system to facilitate University courses. There is a WebCT site set up for this course. This site will be used to post the course syllabus, PowerPoint lectures, supplemental reading materials, web sites of interest, class assignments, etc. Class discussions and chats will also be facilitated via the course WebCT site. Please get in the habit of visiting the course page frequently. A 'cheat sheet' on how to access and use WebCT will be distributed in class.

**Class Schedule for Wildlife Ecology and Management (WEM)
Spring Semester 2009—University of Florida Plant City Education Center**

<u>Week</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Assigned Readings*</u>
1	12 Jan.	Course introduction; Instructor and student introductions History and background of WEM, Historical figures in WEM	B&R pp. xv-19 B&R pp. 21, 505
2	19 Jan.	UF Holiday—No class	
3	26 Jan.	Wildlife philosophies, ethics, and values	B&R pp.452-465, 174-183, 349-351
4	2 Feb.	Wildlife public policies, laws, and agencies The Endangered Species Act (ESA)	B&R pp.496-535, 436-442
5 🖐	9 Feb.	Semester exam I; SCA Sec 1 discussion	SCA Sec. 1
6	16 Feb.	Wildlife Ecology Basics (WEB)—Ecosystems; Natural communities; Animal abundance and distribution	B&R pp.32-47,
7	23 Feb.	WEB— Population ecology introduction	B&R pp.48-69, 183-193
8	2 Mar.	No class—Field trip to ONF	
9	9 Mar.	UF Spring Break—No class	
10	16 Mar.	WEB—Pop. ecology—competition and predation	B&R pp.149-177
11 🖐	23 Mar.	Semester exam II; SCA Sec 2 discussion	SCA Sec. 2
12	30 Mar.	WEB—Pop. ecology—diseases and parasites Wildlife food and cover	B&R pp.118-148, B&R pp.92-11
13	6 Apr.	WEB—Water and wildlife; Wildlife food and cover Management strategies and techniques	B&R pp.200-241 B&R pp. 20-31, 103-116, 288-296, 300-308, 328-348, 442-451, 480-494
14	13 Apr.	Urban and nuisance wildlife; Wildlife fire ecology	B&R pp. 370-395
15 🖐	20 Apr.	Semester exam III; SCA Secs 3&4 discussion Course discussion/evaluation	SCA Secs. 3&4
Final Exam week		Optional final exam	

B&R = Bolen and Robinson (your text), SCA = *A Sand County Almanac*

*Supplemental readings and reference materials will be assigned in class. You are responsible for reading these materials, which will be posted on the course web page (Web CT).

👉=in-class exam, writing assignment due dates, class discussion days

University policies and statements:

Academic Honesty

In 1995 the UF student body enacted a new honor code and voluntarily committed itself to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. When students enroll at the university, they commit themselves to the standard drafted and enacted by students. In adopting this honor code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the university community. Students who enroll at the university commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the honor code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the honor code is bound by honor to take corrective action. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon community acceptance and enforcement of the honor code. **The Honor Code: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.** On all work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied: **“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”** The university requires all members of its community to be honest in all endeavors. A fundamental principle is that the whole process of learning and pursuit of knowledge is diminished by cheating, plagiarism and other acts of academic dishonesty. In addition, every dishonest act in the academic environment affects other students adversely, from the skewing of the grading curve to giving unfair advantage for honors or for professional or graduate school admission. Therefore, the university will take severe action against dishonest students. Similarly, measures will be taken against faculty, staff and administrators who practice dishonest or demeaning behavior. Students should report any condition that facilitates dishonesty to the instructor, department chair, college dean or Student Honor Court. (*Source: 2007-2008 Undergraduate Catalog*) It is assumed all work will be completed independently unless the assignment is defined as a group project, in writing by the instructor. This policy will be vigorously upheld at all times in this course.

Software Use

All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general wellbeing are encouraged to utilize the university’s counseling resources. Both the Counseling Center and Student Mental Health Services provide confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance. The

Counseling Center is located at 301 Peabody Hall (next to Criser Hall). Student Mental Health Services is located on the second floor of the Student Health Care Center in the Infirmary.

- *University Counseling Center*, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, www.counsel.ufl.edu
- *Career Resource Center*, CR-100 JWRU, 392-1602, www.crc.ufl.edu/
- *Student Mental Health Services*, Rm. 245 Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, www.shcc.ufl.edu/smhs/
 - Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program (ASAP)
 - Center for Sexual Assault / Abuse Recovery & Education (CARE)
 - Eating Disorders Program
 - Employee Assistance Program
 - Suicide Prevention Program

Students with Disabilities

The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-

student disability related issues. 0001 Reid Hall, 392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

Campus Closures

Occasionally the UF Plant City Teaching Center may be closed due to unforeseen circumstances, like tropical storms and hurricanes. Our policy is if the Hillsborough Community College's Plant City Campus is closed, then the UF Plant City campus is closed. During periods of potential closure please check our campus website frequently for announcements (<http://gcrec.ifas.ufl.edu/>). You may also try calling the campus for messages regarding closures (813-707-7330). Closures and rescheduled classes will also be posted at the course WebCT site. It is your responsibility to keep track of closures.