

**WIS 3401**  
**Wildlife Ecology and Management**  
Fall Semester 2006  
University of Florida—IFAS Plant City Campus

- 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 Campus (HCC), PEPC Bldg. Room 110
- Lecture Schedule:** Tuesdays 6:00-9:00 p.m., PEPC Bldg. Room 131
- Course Texts:** 1) *Wildlife Ecology and Management*, 5<sup>th</sup> 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, assigned readings, and field outings. Attendance will not be taken, but students are required to attend lectures, participate in discussions, and attend as many field outings as possible.

**Exams and assignments:**

There will be 4 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 last day of class. 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. Semester exams 1, 2, and 4 and the final exam will be administered in class. Semester exam 3 is a take-home exam, and more details about this exam will be provided when it is distributed.

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 (4 @ 100 pts.)	400 pts.
	Writing Assignments (4 @ 25 pts.)	100 pts.
	SCA Class Discussions (4 @ 10 pts.)	40 pts.
	Class Debate Project	60 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, field outing schedule, 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 Field Outings:**

In my opinion, the best way to learn is via first-hand experience. Several field outings during the course will expose students to a diversity of resource management applications and provide useful knowledge of wildlife ecology. Although they are not mandatory, participation in as many outings as possible is strongly encouraged. There will likely be bonus questions on the exams relating to the field outings. If you did not attend an outing you will not be able to answer the bonus questions about that trip. These trips are scheduled for your benefit, as they are great learning opportunities and are also a lot of fun. A schedule of class outings and a brief description of each outing will be distributed in class and posted on the WebCT site. Details for each outing will be discussed in class prior to the trip.

**Class Schedule for Wildlife Ecology and Management (WEM)  
Fall Semester 2006  
University of Florida Plant City Campus**

<u>Week</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Assigned Readings*</u>
1	29 Aug.*	Course introduction; Instructor and student introductions History and background of WEM	B&R pp. xv-19
		*Rescheduled for 1 Sep. due to an unavoidable schedule conflict.	
2	5 Sep.	History and background of WEM cont'd. Historical figures in WEM	B&R pp. xv-19 B&R pp. 21, 505
3	12 Sep.	Wildlife philosophies, ethics, and values	B&R pp.452-465, 174-183, 349-351
4🖐	19 Sep.	<b>Semester exam I; SCA Sec 1 discussion</b> Wildlife public policies, laws, and agencies	SCA Sec. 1 B&R pp.496-535, 436-442
5	26 Sep.	Wildlife public policies, laws, and agencies cont'd. The Endangered Species Act (ESA)	B&R pp.496-535, 436-442
6	3 Oct.	Wildlife Ecology Basics (WEB)—Ecosystems; Natural communities; Animal abundance and distribution	B&R pp.32-47,
7	10 Oct.	WEB— Population ecology introduction	B&R pp.48-69, 183-193
8🖐	17 Oct.	<b>Semester exam II; SCA Sec 2 discussion</b> (Dr. Johnson in Montana, discussion led by Monica McGarrity)	SCA Sec. 2
9	24 Oct.	WEB—Pop. ecology—competition and predation	B&R pp.149-177
10	31 Oct.	WEB—Pop. ecology—diseases and parasites Wildlife food and cover	B&R pp.118-148, B&R pp.92-117
11	7 Nov.	WEB—Water and wildlife; Management strategies and techniques (Turkey trapping by Roger Shields, FWC)	B&R pp.200-241 B&R pp. 20-31, 103-116, 288-296, 300-308, 328-348, 442-451, 480-494
12🖐	14 Nov.	<b>Semester exam III—take home exam;</b> <b>SCA Sec 3 discussion</b> Management strategies and techniques cont'd	SCA Sec. 3

13	👉	21 Nov.	Nonindigenous wildlife <b>Student class debate on relocation</b>	B&R pp.396-425
14		28 Nov.	Urban and nuisance wildlife; Wildlife fire ecology	B&R pp. 370-395
15	👉	5 Dec.	<b>Semester exam IV; SCA Sec 2 discussion; Optional final exam</b>	SCA Sec. 4

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, class debate

***Policies on academic honesty, UF counseling services, and software use***  
***See the Dean of Students Office website for more details:***  
***<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php>***

### **UF Academic Honesty**

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: "I understand the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University."

We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

### **The Student Honor Code - 6C1-4.017**

Preamble: 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. Student and faculty support are crucial to the success of the Honor Code. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon the 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 of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

(1) All students are required to abide by the Student Honor Code.

(2) The conduct set forth hereinafter constitutes a violation of the Student Conduct Code. Those adjudged to have committed such conduct shall be subject to the sanctions provided in Rule 6C1-4.016, F.A.C.

## **Academic Honesty Guidelines—University of Florida**

The Academic Honesty Guidelines at the University of Florida are designed to develop and engender a community of honor, trust and respect. The academic community of students and faculty at the University of Florida strives to develop, sustain and protect an environment of honesty, trust and respect. Students within the system receive the benefits of the academic pursuit of knowledge, free from the obstacles of lying, cheating and stealing. In return, the Academic Honesty Guidelines demand that students act with integrity in all of their endeavors. Exhibiting honesty in academic pursuits and reporting violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines will encourage others to also act with integrity. Every student who approaches their studies with honesty and forthrightness suffers when another student attains an unfair advantage by cheating. An academic honesty offense is defined as the act of lying, cheating, or stealing academic information so that one gains academic advantage. As a University of Florida student, one is expected to neither commit nor assist another in committing an academic honesty violation. Additionally, it is the student's duty to report observed academic honesty violations. The following actions are examples of violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines:

**Cheating.** The improper taking or tendering of any information or material which shall be used to determine academic credit. Taking of information includes, but is not limited to, copying graded homework assignments from another student; working together with another individual(s) on a take-home test or homework when not specifically permitted by the teacher; looking or attempting to look at another student's paper during an examination; looking or attempting to look at text or notes during an examination when not permitted. Tendering of information includes, but is not limited to, giving your work to another student to be used or copied; giving someone answers to exam questions either when the exam is being given or after taking an exam; giving or selling a term paper or other written materials to another student; sharing information on a graded assignment.

**Plagiarism.** The attempt to represent the work of another as the product of one's own thought, whether the other's work is published or unpublished, or simply the work of a fellow student. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, quoting oral or written materials without citation on an exam, term paper, homework, or other written materials or oral presentations for an academic requirement; submitting a paper which was purchased from a term paper service as your own work; submitting anyone else's paper as your own work.

**Bribery.** The offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting any materials, items or services of value to gain academic advantage for yourself or another.

**Misrepresentation.** Any act or omission with intent to deceive a teacher for academic advantage. Misrepresentation includes using computer programs generated by another and handing it in as your own work unless expressly allowed by the teacher; lying to a teacher to increase your grade; lying or misrepresenting facts when confronted with an allegation of academic honesty.

**Conspiracy.** The planning or acting with one or more persons to commit any form of academic dishonesty.

**Fabrication.** The use of invented or fabricated information, or the falsification of research or other findings with the intent to deceive for academic or professional advantage.

## **UF Counseling Services**

Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance. These resources include:

1. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling;
2. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling;
3. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling;
4. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.

## **UF Computer and Software Policy**

Access to and on-going use of a computer is required for all students to complete their degree programs successfully. The University of Florida expects each student entering the junior year, as well as each student new to the university, to acquire computer hardware and software appropriate to his or her degree program. Competency in the basic use of a computer is a requirement for graduation. Class assignments may require use of a computer, academic advising and registration can be done by computer, and official university correspondence is often sent via e-mail.

While the university offers limited access to computers through its computer labs, most students will be expected to purchase or lease a computer that is capable of dial-up or network connection to the Internet, graphical access to the World Wide Web, and productivity functions such as word processing and spreadsheet calculation. Costs of meeting this requirement will be included in financial aid considerations.

## **Campus Closures**

Occasionally the UF Plant City Campus 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.