

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
WINTER 2015

GEOG 456 - WILDLIFE RESOURCE CONSERVATION

INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Dennis E. Jelinski	Office: SSM 212
Email:	jelinski@mail.geog.uvic.ca	CLASS:TWF, 1:30-2:20
Place:	MacLaurin D281	
OFFICE HRS:	Tues/Wed. 2:30-3:30 or by arrangement	

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A lecture/seminar/directed studies course focusing on (1) the notion of wildlife, (2) wildlife ecology, (3) the effects of overexploitation, habitat destruction and introduced species, and (4) management plans and strategies in the face of a rapidly changing world.

Until 35 or so years ago the notion of “wildlife” was synonymous with “game”, principally those birds and mammals that were hunted for sport. The notion of “wildlife” and wildlife management has since radically changed. Wildlife is now considered to include any living non-human, undomesticated organism in the kingdom Animalia. Further emphasis has shifted away from a predominantly utilitarian view to wildlife, and a focus on large and charismatic species (e.g., whooping cranes, plains bison, lions) to a much broader definition that includes consumptive and non-consumptive wildlife. We now recognize that wildlife confers a wide range of values including hunting, spiritual (e.g. eagles), aesthetic (e.g., songbirds), functional (e.g., sea otters), and existence (e.g., mountain caribou), to name a few.

This course will explore the relationship between wildlife and humans, with a particular focus on wildlife “issues” from a conservation and management perspective. It will be apparent that the solutions to resolving these issues tend to fall outside simple biological/ecological solutions, but rather often reside within the social sciences, with geography, as a discipline, playing a pivotal role. However, it is also essential to understand the biological and ecological fundamentals of wildlife populations. Hence it is expected that students have strong interests in learning advanced concepts of ecology and biology of animals including strong emphasis on evolutionary biology.

Students will be introduced to and asked to critically evaluate competing definitions of wildlife, relationship to and uses of wildlife across history, and wildlife importance values.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of the course:

1. Students will be introduced to wildlife management/conservation including the evolutionary and ecological principles underlying management
2. Students will learn the biology, management, behavioural and population ecology of selected wildlife species through relevant lectures, case studies and readings
3. Students will learn historical and socio-political background of wildlife conservation in North America, to understand the constraints, traditions, and diverse viewpoints involved in modern conservation and management of wildlife
4. Students will be introduced to various issues concerning wildlife conservation
5. Students will be encouraged to identify and critically evaluate their own values in wildlife conservation

COURSE LEVEL AND CREDITS:

- Three (3) credit hours, one term.

TEACHING/LEARNING METHODS:

Lectures (3 x 50 mins/wk)

PLAGIARISM

All writing assignments must be written by the student submitting the assignment. Plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty, will not be tolerated. Plagiarism consists of: (a) submitting someone else's work as your own without the use of proper quotation and citation or (b) paraphrasing another's ideas without acknowledging the author's work through citation. If you have any questions concerning matters of plagiarism, please discuss these issues with me prior to submitting any assignments and consult UVic's Policy on Academic Integrity at:

<http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2013/GRAD/FARe/PoAcI.html>

ACCESSIBILITY

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (RCSD) as soon as possible. The RCSD staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations <http://rcsd.uvic.ca/>. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

MAIN TOPICS

INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS WILDLIFE? WHAT IS HABITAT

WHY ARE SOME MANY WILDLIFE POPULATIONS IMPERILLED AND/OR NEEDING MAJOR MANAGEMENT. . . OR WORSE NEGLECTED ENTIRELY

EARLY CIVILIZATIONS AND WILDLIFE

EARLY NORTH AMERICAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS WILDLIFE AND WILDERNESS

CONTEMPORARY CIVILIZATION AND WILDLIFE

WILDLIFE VALUES AND PHILOSOPHIES

BASICS OF WILDLIFE ECOLOGY AND BIOLOGY (INTERSPERSED THROUGHOUT)

MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

GRADING:

PECHA KUCHA LIFE HISTORY	15%
ORAL PRESENTATION/PAPER SYNOPSIS	10%
CASE STUDY (TERM PAPER)	25%
PARTICIPATION	15%
FINAL EXAM TAKE HOME	35%

NEAR THE END OF SOME LECTURES, I WILL ASK YOU TO TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO REFLECT ON THE DAY'S TOPIC AND JOT DOWN AN OBSERVATION OR FOLLOW-UP QUESTION (A PARAGRAPH OR HALF PAGE). THESE MINI-PAPERS WILL NOT BE GRADED, BUT I DO EXPECT THEM TO BE THOUGHTFUL AND WILL USE THEM AS PARTIAL BASIS FOR YOUR COURSE PARTICIPATION GRADE.

“WHAT I HEAR I FORGET, WHAT I SEE I REMEMBER”. – PART OF PARTICIPATION

ON A RANDOM BASIS YOU WILL BE ASKED TO PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION FOR A CONCEPT, PROCESS OR ASPECT OF THE ECOLOGY, BIOLOGY, OR BIOGEOGRAPHY OF AN ORGANISM AND/OR RELEVANT SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSTRUCT (E.G., MONETARY VALUE OF HUNTING LICENCES ETC).

