

Contemporary Issues in Wildlife Protection and Conservation WIS 6559

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Text (Required):

**Any pertinent readings will be provided on the course website.*

Course Objectives:

Students completing this course will gain a better understanding of the fundamental concepts of animal protection, as well as social, ethical, and legal issues involving animal management. Students will have learned conservation methodologies and practices, wildlife management theories and techniques, applied ecology, and regulation of wildlife populations.

Topics:

Module	Topics
1	Course Introduction
2	How can the forensic sciences become beneficial to wildlife ecology?
3	The influence of illegal wildlife take on adaptation and natural selection Human-animal interaction and the environment. A forensic science perspective
4	Legal vs. illegal take of wildlife
5	Biosecurity and responder health and safety: Zoonotic diseases
6	Investigation: Information and intelligence gathering
7	Wildlife forensic laboratories and their services
8	Forensic Taphonomy Vertebrate decomposition ecology
9	Ritual animal crimes
10	Animal protection and legal advocacy
11	Compassion fatigue
12	Case building: The team approach
13	De-escalation and deflection for investigators

14	Reading week
15	Final Exam

Grading:

Students will be graded based on two exams, each worth 50% of the total course grade. All written answers must be completed in your own words. Copying from other sources is not acceptable and may be considered plagiarism. Failure to answer exam questions in your own words may result in you receiving a score of 0 (zero). If you lose your internet connection during your exam time and scores are not recorded simply email the instructor for assistance. Always include your name when communicating with the course instructor. Students will receive individual feedback on points lost on the exams. Students can check their progress in the course by viewing their grade records via the course interface.

Grades will be assigned as follows:

A 90% or Above

A- 88 - 89%

B+ 85 - 87%

B 80 - 84%

B- 78 - 79%

C+ 75 - 77%

C 70 - 74%

C- 68 - 69 %

D+ 65 - 67%

D 60 - 64%

D- 58 - 59%

E < 58

Registrar's Grade Policy regulations at

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

Getting Started:

To get started, briefly introduce yourself via the discussion board located in the left-hand menu on the homepage of the course. Once you have responded to the Introduction you will then go to the first module. Read through the course content and any required reading listed in the module introduction. Do not hesitate to contact your instructor at any time if you need guidance; if you are unsure about the focus of the assignment; if you have assignment questions or questions relating to the course content. If you don't tell us you need help, we can't help you!

Revision and Notes:

As you go through the semester, keep copies of important emails, bulletins and assignments you may use for revision as these will be purged from the course at the end of the semester. We recommend you make a copy of the course modules since this will be the only access you will get to these materials. We will not be able to provide you with copies of course content once the course is removed from your account.

Course Assignments:

This class consists of a large amount of material. You will not be required to remember everything, it is only an introductory course, but many topics will be introduced. Each week there will be either two discussion questions or a short project assigned emphasizing what I feel are the most important aspects of that week's lessons. Please participate in the online discussions/projects.

Assignment Deadlines:

Please review the information regarding the policy for missed deadlines in the section on Instructional Policies. In some courses content modules may be released before the scheduled calendar date to help those who need to work ahead because of work commitments, court appearances, and work related travel. If a module is released ahead of time, the deadline for the assignment and exam will remain the same as it is on the course calendar.

Communication:

Course Email, not the discussion board, should always be used to contact the faculty or staff if you have a problem of a personal nature. If you are having technical problems with the course content (downloads, etc) or you are unable to access your course interface, please contact us directly, and please don't spend hours trying to get something to work as this will only lead to frustration. We don't want any of you to be offline for any length of time. Contact us as soon as you can so we can check it out and help you. If you are experiencing difficulty with your access to course email then please email your course instructor directly via regular email. In that email, make sure you give your name and the name of your course. Please respond to all emails from your instructor or TA. When we email you we are usually contacting you because we want to help you. If you have a question about your grade, an exam, or assignment question, please email us and we'll be happy to help you.

Bulletin Board:

The course bulletin board can be used to post content related questions and assignment materials when necessary. Please ask me questions any time; I am here to help you. Please do not use the community forum to ask specific questions about your current course content, assignments etc. It's VERY important that you read all the discussion bulletins that have been posted. I will use this site to post important information relating to content or exam changes, deadlines etc. Since postings can accumulate quickly, please login each day to stay on top of these postings or you may miss important information.

Makeup Policy:

Make up assignments are not usually given, but may be at the discretion of the course instructor after evaluation of the circumstances leading to the request.

Grade Changes:

Grades will be changed only when a grading error has been made. If you think an error has been made, you should email the instructor as soon as possible. Your entire assignment will then be re-graded.

Instructional Policy:

This course is part of the distance education program at the University of Florida. Instead of traditional lecture format, the medium for communication between course instructors, teaching assistants and students will be via Sakai, a user friendly Web-based classroom management tool.

Attendance Policy: Students must participate in the bulletin board discussions, and are required to visit the course website daily for important updates and bulletins.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Class Participation: Students are expected to constructively join in bulletin board discussions with appropriate preparation, to post interesting and relevant information on the class bulletin board, and to interact professionally with their classmates.

Performance Expectations: Students are expected to produce quality work of a standard comparable to any graduate level didactic course. Bulletin postings and discussions must be legible, constructive and appropriate. Students are required to think for themselves and will be expected to complete assignments that require the application of logic and reasoning skills when the answer may not be found in a book or the course notes.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism includes any attempt to take credit for another person's work. This includes quoting directly from a book or web site, without crediting the source. Sources should always be referenced, a link to the website added, or quotation marks placed around the material. However, we expect more than simply cutting and pasting in this graduate level course. Students are expected to review, evaluate and comment on material they research, rather than simply copying relevant material. Your work will be graded accordingly.

Assignments: While we understand that our students have other work and personal commitments, we expect every effort to be made to meet these deadlines. If for some reason, because of circumstances beyond your control, you are unable to meet an

assignment deadline, students should e-mail the professor and explain the situation in advance. Being consistently late in submitting assignments disrupts the discussion of topics on the bulletin board and will therefore result in loss of marks for that assignment up to a full letter grade. If you email us we will work with you around the deadline. If you have outstanding assignments at the end of the semester we will send you a follow up email as a reminder and as a means to determine your plans for completion. If you do not respond to us before the final day of classes you will be assigned a grade based on the completed assignments.

Incomplete grades: Under special circumstances, if a student is unable to finish a course before the end of the semester we may be able to assign an incomplete grade. An incomplete grade is a non punitive grade assigned at the discretion of the course instructor. In this course an incomplete grade may be assigned if 1/3rd or more of the course assignments have been completed and if the student has remained in communication with TA's and instructors throughout the course, or has made an effort to request an incomplete grade. If an incomplete grade is assigned, outstanding assignments must be completed by the end of the next semester. If the assignments are not completed in this time you will be assigned a grade based on the completed assignments.

Drop Dates: consult the UF Calendar of Critical Dates at <http://www.forensicscience.ufl.edu/Students/Dates.asp>

Students must inform us that they are withdrawing from a course to ensure appropriate tuition reimbursement. Deleting yourself from the course roster does not officially withdraw you from a course.

Important Dates:

For Assignment deadlines - see the course Calendar in WebCT.

For other important dates, consult the UF Calendar of Critical Dates and <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/>

Additional information on the University of Florida Grades and Grading Policies may be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

“Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting the accommodation”

University's Honesty Policy (cheating and use of copyrighted materials)

Academic Integrity – Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity (see Student Conduct Code, the Graduate Student Handbook or this web site for more details:

www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.php).

Cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

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

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The College and the course instructor are committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students' coursework. To obtain academic accommodations, first register with the Dean of Students' Office. The Dean of Students' Office will provide documentation to be given to the course instructor at the time you request the accommodation.

Online Course Evaluations

Course evaluations are conducted online. "Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

Counseling and Student Health

Students may occasionally have personal issues that arise in the course of pursuing higher education or that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing problems affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and to seek confidential assistance at the University of Florida Counseling Center, 352-392-1575, or Student Mental Health Services, 352-392-1171. Visit their web sites for more information: <http://www.counsel.ufl.edu>. The Student Health Care Center at Shands is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health at Shands offers a variety of clinical services, including primary care, women's health care, immunizations, mental health care, and pharmacy services. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic at 392-0627 or check out the web site at: www.health.ufl.edu/shcc

Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from:
Alachua County Crisis Center: (352) 264-6789

Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us. We have helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.