## Wildlife in the Modern World

## ESRM 150 – Fall 2022

*Instructor:*

**Laura Prugh**

Office hours: W 10:30-11:30, WFS 204

lprugh@uw.edu

*TA:*

**Clint Robins**

Office hours: Th 12:30-1:20 WFS 110

crobins4@uw.edu

*Lectures:* MWF 1:30-2:20, CDH 109

*Discussion sections:* AA: M 11:30-12:20, WFS 107

 AB: W 9:30-10:20, WFS 107

 AC: W 11:30-12:20, WFS 107

 AD: F 9:30 - 10:20, CDH 128

 AE: M 9:30-10:20 WFS 107 (FIGS only)

 AF: Th 1:30 - 2:20, AND 304/306

*Web:* Canvas

*Textbook*: None required

## Course Description

The influence of humans increasingly shapes the natural landscapes and systems of this planet, leading to concerns and sometimes conflict involving wildlife. This course is intended to provide an introduction to wildlife biology and conservation by investigating the suite of pressures influencing species survival. We assume that you do not have a background in college-level biology and that you are not in a natural resource or biology program. A strong interest in learning how and why humans affect wildlife is essential to succeeding in this course.

Wildlife in the Modern World is intended to provide students who might not otherwise study wildlife in an academic setting with a framework for understanding wildlife-related topics they will encounter in the media throughout life. Students are encouraged to critically assess basic needs and pressures of a wide variety of wildlife.

## Expected Learning Outcomes

Students who leave ESRM 150 in good standing will be able to research a wildlife species of interest, synthesize available information, and effectively communicate the species’ past, present, and potential interactions with humans and the natural world. Successful students will be able to discuss basic topics of wildlife ecology, management, and conservation with peers.

## Course Schedule (*note*: *topics* *may change*)

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Week | Date | Topic |
| 1 | Sept 28 | 1-Course Intro |
|  | Sept 30 | 2-Intro to Wildlife |
| 2 | Oct 3 | 3-Population ecology |
|  | Oct 5 | 4-Community ecology |
|  | Oct 7 | 5-Case study: Wolf recolonization in WA |
| 3 | Oct 10 | 6-Studying wildlife 1  |
|  | Oct 12 | 7-Studying wildlife 2  |
|  | Oct 14 | 8-Recreation (guest lecture: Michael Procko) ***(paper topic due)*** |
| 4 | Oct 17 | 9-Case study: Carrizo Plain Ecosystem Project |
|  | Oct 19 | 10- Harvest 1 |
|  | Oct 21 | 11- Harvest 2 |
| 5 | Oct 24 | 12- Habitat loss and fragmentation **(*first 2 Species of the Day accounts due*)** |
|  | Oct 26 | 13- Land sparing vs. sharing |
|  | Oct 28 | 14- Reserve design |
| 6 | Oct 31 | 15- Climate change  |
|  | Nov 2 | Review  |
|  | Nov 4 | EXAM 1 |
| 7 | Nov 7 | 16- Cougar case study (guest lecture: Clint Robins) ***(no discussion sections this week)*** |
|  | Nov 9 | 17- Human-wildlife interactions (guest lecture: Apryle Craig) |
|  | Nov 11 | Veteran’s Day **(*no class*)**  |
| 8 | Nov 14 | 18- Ecosystem health 1 ***(paper draft due)*** |
|  | Nov 16 | 19- Ecosystem health 2  |
|  | Nov 18 | 20- Urban wildlife |
| 9 | Nov 21 | 21- Invasive species (***peer reviews due***) ***No discussion sections this week*** |
|  | Nov 23 | 22- **No class** |
|  | Nov 25 | Thanksgiving break (no class)  |
| 10 | Nov 28 | 22- Case study: Outdoor cats  |
|  | Nov 30 | 23- Human-wildlife conflict ***(final paper due)*** |
|  | Dec 2 | 24- Wildlife restoration (***Nature Watch EC assignment due***) |
| 11 | Dec 5 | 25- Wildlife professions **(*last 2 Species of the Day accounts due*)**  |
|  | Dec 7 | Review |
|  | Dec 9 | EXAM 2 |

## Learning Format

## This course will be taught in person in Fall 2022.

## Poll Everywhere

Poll Everywhere software will be used during lectures to engage students. Poll Everywhere is a free application that will connect to Canvas through your mobile device. You may use Poll Everywhere on a computer, but most students find the mobile app to work best. **Be sure to download the app onto your mobile device BEFORE the first lecture and set up your Poll Everywhere account USING YOUR UW EMAIL (NOT a different email address), or else you will not receive credit for the quiz!** See here for more information: <https://www.polleverywhere.com/>

**Readings**

There is no required textbook for this class. Readings will be assigned each week during the quarter and will be available on Canvas. Lecture quizzes may include some questions about the readings as well as the lectures.

**Exams**

There will be two exams and no final exam. Exams will be non-cumulative. The format of the exams will be a combination of multiple choice and true/false questions.

**Species of the day**

Each lecture will begin by featuring a species. Your “species of the day” assignment consists of researching at least four of these species and writing a paragraph about them. You will submit your assignments by uploading a Word or pdf file to the Canvas assignments page. *Only files including at least one source for your researched material will be graded.* **You must write in your own words** (don’t copy and paste, or quote directly). At least two species are due by Oct 26. The last two are due by Dec 7.

**Lecture 5-minute essays**

You will be asked to write a 5-minute essay at the end of two lectures during the quarter (it will be a surprise which ones!). Essay topics will be given in class. Each essay will be worth 5 points. You will do this twice for a total of 10 points. Essays demonstrating that you were engaged in the day’s lecture will get full credit.

**Discussion Sections**

In weekly discussion sections, you will have the opportunity to interact with other students while delving deeper into a variety of wildlife topics. Discussion section material will not be tested on exams. You will receive points based on your preparation, participation, and assignments for each week’s discussion section.

Instructions for each discussion section will be posted the Wednesday prior to each week’s sessions on Canvas and shared with the class via an announcement**.** Each week’s discussion will involve some preparation ahead of time, participation during the class session, and an assignment due after via Canvas.

**Nature Watch Extra-Credit Assignment**

Observing wildlife can allow you to gain a much deeper understanding of the species, especially when observing wild animals in their natural habitat. Sitting still and quietly focusing on another living being can also be a valuable meditative experience that can benefit your mental health. This extra-credit assignment is an opportunity for you to gain these benefits, and up to 10 extra points! More details on the assignment will be provided on Canvas.

**Wildlife Management Paper**

You will be turning in one 3-page, double-spaced paper. This paper is an essay on a current, controversial topic in wildlife management. You should have a brief introduction describing the topic, followed by three sections. The first section should describe the arguments that have been made in favor of the proposed management policy/action/strategy, the second section should describe arguments against it, and the third section should summarize your opinion. You need at least three citations from the primary literature (scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals and books). Avoid using material from websites unless they come from government agencies, or other reputable sources. You will submit your topic for approval, then submit a draft of your paper. You will then conduct 2 peer reviews of your classmates’ papers and receive feedback from 2 peers on your own paper. You will then will submit your final paper (see course schedule for due dates). Choose a topic that inspires you or you can relate to if possible as it will make the project easier, you will get more out of it, and the section where you state your opinion will be a lot easier.

**Late Policy**

Assignments are due before midnight (11:59PM) the day they are due unless otherwise noted. You are strongly advised not to wait until the last minute to upload assignments, because Canvas can have problems if everyone tries to submit at the same time. For written assignments, allow enough time to view your SimCheck report for plagiarized content and edit your assignment if needed before you submit it (see section on plagiarism below for more information). Assignments turned in late will receive a 10% reduction in points PER DAY late, starting immediately after the assignment is due. For example, if the assignment is due at 11:59PM on Nov 13 and it is turned in at 12:00AM on Nov 14, 10% would be deducted, and an additional 10% deducted for each 24-hour period thereafter.

**Attendance**

Students will not receive credit for missed lecture quizzes, essays, exams, or discussion sections if they are missed without prior notification AND approval. If you have a valid reason for missing lecture or discussion, you must email Dr. Prugh or your TA PRIOR to your absence to make arrangements for make-up assignments. If you miss your discussion section without prior approval, you may turn in the assignment but will only receive a maximum of 50% of the points.

## Course Grading

There are a total of 650 points available for this course. Grades in this course will be broken into the following categories:

Exams 300 points (150 points each x 2)

Species of the day 40 points (10 points each x 4)

In-class "5-minute essays" 10 points (5 points each x 2)

Discussion participation 128 points (16 points each x 8)

Peer reviews 20 points (10 points each x 2)

Wildlife paper 80 points (80 points x 1)

Daily lecture quizzes 72 points (~3 points x 24)

**Total 650 points**

***Extra Credit:***

Nature Watch assignment 10 points

End of course evaluation 2 points

*There will also be occasional EC questions in exams and quizzes worth up to 10 additional points*

Grades will be converted to a 4.0 scale as follows:

A = 3.5-4.0, 90-100% (585-650 pts)

B = 2.5-3.4, 80-89% (520-584 pts)

C = 1.5-2.4, 70-79% (455-519 pts)

D = 0.7-1.4, 60-69% (390-454 pts)

F = 0, < 60% (<390pts)

**Note:** 60% -> 0.7 = the lowest passing grade

59% or lower = academic failure (no credit earned)

For more information on UW Grading system, you can visit: <http://www.washington.edu/students/gencat/front/Grading_Sys.html>

## Community Norms

## We would like to create a learning environment that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honors everyone’s backgrounds and identities. To help accomplish this goal, we will attempt to foster a culture in which each class member is able to respect and hear each other. We ask that everyone be considerate of other’s views and mindful of your own. There may be uncomfortable situations that may arise in class despite the best intentions of your colleagues or your instructors. If this occurs, please discuss the situation with us or, if you prefer, we will be happy to direct you to resources within our School or University. We also encourage you seek out alternative avenues to address these situations, if these settings are more comfortable to you.

## Academic Integrity

Plagiarism, cheating, and other misconduct are serious violations of your contract as a student. We expect that you will know and follow the University's policies on cheating and plagiarism. Any suspected cases of academic misconduct will be handled according to University regulations. More information, including definitions and examples, can be found at: <http://depts.washington.edu/grading/pdf/AcademicResponsibility.pdf>

### PLEASE READ: Notice to Students - Use of Plagiarism Detection Software

## SimCheck is an educational tool that helps prevent or identify plagiarism by comparing each student’s submitted work to the entire Internet and to other students’ submissions from current and prior years. We will use SimCheck for written assignments to ensure material was not copied. Cases in which a student submits material that appears to have been plagiarized will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct, which could result in a 0 grade or worse. The SimCheck Report will indicate the amount of matching text between your submission and other sources. A match of 10% or less is typical and can be expected, but matches above this level can indicate problematic content. We strongly recommend that you view your SimCheck Report prior to submission! If your report indicates >10% match, make sure to carefully read your report, and revise your paper if needed.

## Disability Accommodations

To request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact Disability Resources for Students, 011 Mary Gates, (206)543-8924 (V/TTY), <http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs/>. If you require academic accommodations, please coordinate with DRS and/or present your letter from DRS to the instructor so we can discuss the accommodations needed for this class.

## Religious Accommodations

Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW’s policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at [Religious Accommodations Policy](https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/). Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the [Religious Accommodations Request form](https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/).