

Wildlife in Agricultural Ecosystems FW435/535

Credit hours: 3

Term offered: Winter

Instructor: Garcia

Course objectives:

- Identify trade-offs between environmental health and agricultural production.
- Become familiar with the major stressors for wildlife in agricultural ecosystems.
- Recognize the pressures and difficulties of implementing conservation practices.
- Creativity and cooperation are key aspects to the integration of environmental health and agricultural production. Learn how to approach these problems from multiple perspectives and with sensitivity.

Course content: In this writing intensive course (WIC) the student should develop a strong understanding of the pressures facing both farmers and wildlife in agricultural ecosystems using writing as a learning tool. We will critique primary literature and case studies from around the world to examine the trade-offs between food production and wildlife conservation. Through the combination of ecological theory, conservation biology and land-management models, this course will provide a synthesis of the priorities that govern these systems. Sometimes contradictory, sometime integrative, the issues affecting conservationists and agricultural producers will be discussed in detail.

Prerequisite(s): Introductory Biology (BI 21X), Ecology (BI 370) and Principles of Wildlife Conservation (FW 251)

Text(s): McNeely, J. A. and S. J. Scherr (2003) *Ecoagriculture: Strategies to Feed the World and Save Wild Biodiversity*. Island Press, ISBN: 1-55963-645-9 (required)

McMillan, V. E. (2006) *Writing Papers in the Biological Sciences*, 4th ed. Bedford/St.Martin's Press, ISBN: 0-312-44083-9 (optional)

Term paper(s): Rhetorical Précis, a News and Views Critique, and the Conservation Effort Assessment Plan (CEAP) project

Testing: Final Exam

Students for whom the course is intended: Upper level undergraduate and graduate students with interests in highly managed terrestrial ecosystems. Students with a need for a WIC course.