

Management of Big Game Animals
FW 458/558

Credit hours: 4

Term offered: Fall

Instructor: Coblentz

Course objectives: To provide students with a thorough understanding of the ecology and behavior of big game animals, the techniques used to determine their food habits, condition, and numbers, and aspects of social and cultural knowledge and bias that contribute to realized management of large mammals. The ultimate objective is for the student to be able to make management decisions based on the biology of the species being studied tempered by the demands of the public.

Course contents:

Big game species of the works
Value of big game – game as a resource
Ecology of big game – habitat preferences
Ruminant and caecal digestion
Physiology and thermal requirements
Nutritional requirements, nutrient content of forages
Deer population dynamics
Basic big game management
Diseases of big game
Social dynamics of big game
Courtship systems and behavior
Exotic big game

Prerequisites: Junior standing

Text: None

Term papers: None

Testing: One mid-term and final exam, several written reaction essays.

Students for whom the course is intended: Primarily students in programs of natural resource science or management.