

Wildlife Ecology
FW 481/581

Credit hours: 4

Term offered: Fall

Instructor: Robinson

Course objectives: We will study basic ecological principles and patterns as they relate to the conservation and management of biodiversity, especially factors that influence the distribution and abundance of wildlife.

Course content: By the end of the course, the student will be able to accomplish the following:
FW 481 and 581:

- Explain the relationships between species' distributions, habitat composition and configuration, and individual species' characteristics.
- Explain the importance of interactions among species on community structure and population sizes of species indirectly influenced by species' interactions across trophic levels.
- Explain the relative magnitude of expected changes in community composition and populations of particular species as a function of global climate change.
- Apply ecological knowledge to novel circumstances and suggest appropriate actions to achieve wildlife management goals.
- Constructively critique in writing scientific publications covering topics in wildlife ecology.

FW 581 only:

- Synthesize information from the scientific literature on wildlife ecology and present summaries of that knowledge in writing.
- Present descriptions of a wildlife ecological field study to the class and answer questions posed by fellow students and the instructor about the study design, background, justification, and expected products.

Prerequisites: BI 370.

Text: There is no required text. Readings will be made available on Blackboard.

Term papers: none.

Testing: 1 mid-term, cumulative final exam, and class presentations.

Students for whom the course is intended: Seniors and graduate students.