

FW 471 - Wildlife Data Collection and Analysis

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Larissa Bailey
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OFFICE HOURS: Thur 9:30-11:30am

LECTURES: Tuesday and Thursday 8-8:50 AM in 133 Wagar
LABS: Wednesday or Thursday 2-5:50pm in NR 243 or 232

PREREQUISITES: FW 370, NR 220, ST301/307, M155/160 (Calculus and Statistics will be used),
basic familiarity with CNR computer labs and ability to use a web browser

COURSE WEB PAGE: Canvas

TEXTS AND READINGS

(Recommended): Conroy, M. J. and J. P. Carroll. 2009. Quantitative Conservation of Vertebrates. Wiley-Blackwell Publishing. 337pp.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course is intended to provide a foundation of techniques commonly used by wildlife biologists in data collection and analysis. For many of you this will be one of your final wildlife/conservation courses before you enter the profession or continue your studies in graduate school. In that context, the purpose of the course is to explore, and discuss in detail, methods needed to solve wildlife management and conservation problems in the real world. This requires the ability to recognize and accomplish several key steps characteristic of problem resolution. These include the ability to:

- clearly state the problem to be solved, or hypothesis to be tested;
- recognize the information needed to test the hypothesis or address the wildlife question;
- review of the existing information and current understanding that are relevant to testing the hypothesis, or address the wildlife/conservation question;
- apply knowledge about design of experiments and observational studies to test a hypothesis, or address the wildlife/conservation question;
- interpret the results of an experiment, or insights gained from observation, to draw inferences to the validity of the hypothesis;
- clearly communicate to decision makers the implications of your experimental results or observational studies;
- understand how experimental and observational studies inform management decisions, i.e., understanding the role of science in management and apply adaptive management ideals in making decisions about conservation and management issues

Upon completion of this course and combined with knowledge from other FWB courses you should feel as if you have made a step beyond being solely a student of wildlife biology, to being a practitioner of the skills of our profession.

Student Evaluation & Grades: Approximate Distribution of Points By Percentages

Exam I & II	30%
Final Exam	20%
Lab Assignments	30%
Pop Quizzes, Attendance and Participation	20%

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Final course grades will be based on overall percentages, where generally, >90 % = A- to A+; 80 - 89% = B- to B+; >70-79 % = C to C+; >60-69 % = D- to D+, and <60 % = F.

You must take all exams. We seldom give make-up or early exams. The only rare exceptions are for catastrophes truly beyond your control--hospitalization, imprisonment, family death--and then we must be notified before the exam, unless that is truly impossible. An "I" is given only for such exceptional circumstances. A makeup exam will not be easier than a missed exam. We may choose to use a restricted average of other scores, instead of a makeup.

Expect quizzes to cover assigned readings and recent lecture and lab materials. Students are expected to attend all lectures and labs; attendance at lab sections will be recorded. We expect you to come to class prepared, to interact in discussions, and to ask questions.

You are expected to attend ALL lab sessions. Lab assignments will generally involve reports (e.g., 3-5, double-spaced pages of text plus tables and figures). **Note:** Lab assignments are due at the beginning of the lab period. Late work will only be accepted within 24 hours of the due date and will be penalized 20%; the work must be handed to the instructor or TA.

Library & Research Help

The CSU Libraries Help Desk provides research and technical assistance either in person at Morgan Library or by phone at 970-491-1841. Jocelyn Boice is the librarian supporting this course. Contact her by email at jocelyn.boice@colostate.edu or by phone at 970-491-3882 to ask questions or set up an appointment for in-depth research help.

From Policies and Guiding Principles in CSU General Catalog

Academic Integrity and Misconduct: This course will follow the Academic Integrity Policy which can be found in the General Catalog (<http://www.catalog.colostate.edu/FrontPDF/1.6POLICIES1112f.pdf>) and the Student Conduct Code (<http://www.conflictresolution.colostate.edu/conduct-code>). A student(s) found responsible for having engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to academic penalty (e.g., Failure of FW 471) and/or University disciplinary action. Instances of academic dishonesty may be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs which can result in University disciplinary action.

CSU Honor Pledge: To further enhance the culture of integrity at CSU, the Associated Students of Colorado State University (ASCSU) recommended an honor pledge as way to encourage student academic integrity. The instructor will provide the opportunity for students to sign an affirmative honor pledge on a subset of assignments (e.g., HONOR PLEDGE: I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance). A student's decision to forego signing the honor pledge will not be used as evidence of academic misconduct.

The Student Conduct Code states that: Colorado State University expects students to maintain standards of personal integrity that are in harmony with the educational goals of the institution; to observe national, state, and local laws, and University regulations; and to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people ... The University recognizes the right of all students to engage in discussion, to exchange thought and opinion, and to speak, write, or print freely on any subject in accordance with the guarantees of Federal or State constitutions.

Classroom Behavior: Behavior in the classroom should be respectful and civil. Students have both the right to learn and the responsibility to participate in the learning process. Classroom disruption by students is not expected and may require students to leave the classroom pending discussion and resolution of the concerns. Students may be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs for possible university disciplinary action including suspension, dismissal or expulsion and/or the campus police summoned in serious cases. (CSU General Catalog and the Students Rights and Responsibilities handbook)