



ESRM 350

**Wildlife Biology and
Conservation**

Autumn 2016

Aaron Wirsing

Office: WFS 101

Office hours: Wed 1:30 – 3:30 (oba)

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Interests:

- Behavioral ecology
- Predator-prey interactions
- Large predator conservation
- Cross-pollination of marine and terrestrial research



TA: Laurel Peelle

Office: WFS 110
Office hours: By appointment
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The Basics

We meet: MWF 11:30 – 12:20 (lectures)
- please be punctual

Course website: <http://faculty.washington.edu/wirsinga/ESRM350.htm>

Course listserve: esrm350a_au16@uw.edu

Course Goals

- **Primary goal:** equip you with a foundational understanding of wildlife biology
 - core principles and processes

Course Goals

- Wildlife scientists must be able to identify, tackle conservation problems
- **Additional goal:** familiarize you with major threats to wildlife and means by which course concepts can be applied to confront them

Course Goals

“In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous.”
– Aristotle

Course Goals

- **Final goal:** share with you my fascination with wildlife



What are we going to be talking about?

“Wildlife” = ?

What are we going to be talking about?

“Wildlife” = Any animals living in a wild state (non-domesticated). By convention this definition includes birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians*

*fishes, insects & other invertebrate animals are also wildlife



Teaching Approach

- Course will be lecture based, supplemented with case studies that
 - illustrate course content
 - illuminate wildlife natural history
 - link wildlife science and conservation
- Please ask questions and contribute with observations and stories!

Course Readings

- **No** required text
- Notes available for download on course website
 - Black & white PDFs
 - Please bring them to class for embellishment

Exams

- Three in-class exams (*non-cumulative*)
- Short answer, synthetic, minimal regurgitation
- 100 points each

“Five-Minute” Papers

- End of one randomly chosen class period per week
- On note card, take 2-3 minutes to jot down observations, questions, or suggestions for class prompted by day’s lecture
- Please sign your name, but submissions will not be graded
- They *will* be recorded and used to generate 50% of your participation score (50 points)

Discussion Sessions

- Wink 107
- Two sections: M 12:30-2:20 (AA), T 1:30-3:20 (AB)
- Forum for you to research and discuss wildlife conservation stories
- Group presentations (100 points)
- Participation (50 points)

Grading

- 500 total points
- Course participation: 100 points
 - 50% In class (“5 minute papers”)
 - 50% Contribution to discussion
 - Peer evaluation of group contribution
- Group presentations (discussion sections): 100 points
- Exams: 300 points
- Note, excused absences and prior notification are required to receive a make-up exam

Lecture Organization

- Course lectures grouped into three broad sections
 - The biology of individuals
 - The biology of wildlife populations and communities
 - Wildlife conservation