

University of Manitoba
Department of Environment and Geography
ENVR 4000 - Wildlife Management
Fall 2015 (3 ch)

UofM Instructors:

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Wildlife Project Coordinators:

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A. Goals:

Wildlife Management is a 3 credit hour project course in the Department of Environment and Geography that will be offered over the fall term in 2015. The intent is to provide students with an understanding of real-world issues in the wildlife management field, as identified in conjunction with representatives of government and other agencies in Manitoba. In particular, liaison with Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, Ducks Unlimited Canada, and Environment Canada is anticipated. Another important feature will be the opportunity for students to take part in the 22nd Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society, the largest gathering of wildlife professionals in the world, that is being held in Winnipeg from October 17-21. A final goal of the course is to build the skills and abilities of students to work as members of a team, a requirement that is becoming increasingly important in professional environmental careers.

B. Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the nature of contemporary wildlife management issues and strategies in the Province of Manitoba and beyond; and
2. For a specific issue/strategy, prepare a written/electronic and oral submission as a member of a research team that:
 - a. highlights the background and historical development of the issue,
 - b. identifies appropriate objectives and methods for investigation of the issue,
 - c. summarizes results and conclusions of the investigation, and
 - d. provides recommendations to provincial and other agencies for enhancing wildlife management initiatives as related to the issue.

C. Course Content:

The course will consist of individual assignments and self-directed studies by teams of 3 or 4 students on wildlife management issues and strategies as identified in class discussions. In particular, each of the

Wildlife Project Coordinators listed above will serve as key resource persons and will provide liaison for students to access information and knowledgeable agency representatives. The course will emphasize real-world, hands-on experience in dealing with the various stakeholders involved in wildlife management. This will involve meetings outside of regular University class times and at various locations across the Province.

For the team projects, students will be expected to determine the most effective strategies that might be applied to the issue under consideration after careful investigation of various alternatives, and also to explain why their approach is considered to be optimal. Research teams are expected to locate background literature, web-based resources, and other documentation for their specific project in conjunction with the Wildlife Project Coordinators and other representatives.

Students will be evaluated through submission of 2 assignments, team project reports and/or electronic materials, and a final oral presentation.

Possible team research projects will be discussed at a first meeting of the class scheduled for Monday September 14, 2015 from 400-530 pm in 217 Wallace, with a follow-up meeting to finalize projects at 230 pm on Monday September 21. If students are unable to attend these meetings, please contact the course instructors as soon as possible.

D. Evaluation

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| • Assignment 1 – North American Model (October 5) | 15% |
| • Assignment 2 – TWS Conference Summary (November 2) | 15% |
| • Team Progress Summary 1 (October 5, 230 pm – 217 Wallace) | 10% |
| • Team Progress Summary 2 (November 2, 230 pm - 217 Wallace) | 10% |
| • Final Team Project Submission (December 10) | 30% |
| • Oral Presentations of Team Project (December 10 - 217 Wallace) | 20% |

Note that electronic submission of all assignments, team submissions, and Powerpoints for the oral presentation should be done using the UofM Learn site (www.umanitoba.ca/d2l) for this course.

E. Assignment 1- North American Model of Wildlife Conservation

The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation is arguably one of the most successful approaches to wildlife management that has been developed anywhere in the World, but it is not without its critics. For this assignment the following sources are to be read/viewed:

Leopold, A. 1949. *A Sand County Almanac and Other Writings on Ecology and Conservation*. Specifically review the section on **The Land Ethic**.

D2L video. “North American Model of Wildlife Conservation: Opportunity for All”

Geist, V., S.P. Mahoney, J.F. Organ (2001). Why hunting has defined the North American model of wildlife conservation. *Transactions of the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference* 66: 175–185.

Students are required to submit a report of no less than 1200-words and no more than 1400-words that **defines** the *Land Ethic* and the Seven Pillars of the North American Model of Wildlife Management. For the North American Model, you are to critically evaluate both the benefits and shortcomings of the Model. The Assignment must be completed using a word processor single spaced, in Times 12 or similar font. The summary must have a title page with your student name and number. Summary reports are to be submitted to the UofM Learn site by October 5, 2015.

F. Assignment 2 – 22nd Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society

The Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society (TWS) will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba from October 17-21, 2015, at the RBC Winnipeg Convention Centre. TWS is an organization of nearly 12,000 wildlife professionals of all backgrounds and interests.

The mission of TWS is to represent and serve the professional community of scientists, managers, educators, technicians, planners, and others who work actively to study, manage, and conserve wildlife and habitats worldwide.

TWS is committed to a world where humans and wildlife co-exist. Members work to manage, conserve, and study wildlife populations and habitats. They actively manage forests, conserve wetlands, restore endangered species, conserve wildlife on private and public lands, resolve wildlife damage and disease problems, and enhance biological diversity. TWS members are active across the United States, Canada, and Mexico, as well as internationally.

The products of The Wildlife Society include essential, practical, and objective information for wildlife professionals. These include the providing of research, policy information, and practical techniques in print and electronic forms, along with vibrant professional networks that allow solutions to wildlife conservation and management challenges anchored in science.

Beginning in 1935, founding members of The Wildlife Society and another professional North American organization, the Wildlife Management Institute, held annual meetings in conjunction with the North American Natural Resources and Wildlife Conference. By 1993, TWS Council decided that the North American Conference had outgrown its role as a combined forum, and therefore The Wildlife Society would begin to host their own conference usually in the fall of each year.

The purpose of The Wildlife Society Annual Conference is to: 1) provide the best venue available to wildlife professionals, 2) make the conference affordable, 3) offer ample opportunities for attendees to network informally, and 4) provide a high quality educational program.

The Annual Conference begins on a Sunday with an Opening Plenary and continues until the following Wednesday evening. There are a large number of concurrent technical contributed papers and poster sessions, symposia, working group meetings, affiliated meetings, a student quiz bowl, photography contest, trade show and exhibition, various sponsored receptions, mixers, a leaders lunch, and committee meetings. Extensive opportunities are available for networking and for mentoring students and young professionals. Additional details about the Conference and daily schedules are available at www.twsconference.org.

Special arrangements have been made with TWS for all students in this course to participate in 1-day of the Conference at no cost to the participant. Students will be responsible for costs for attending

additional days. In order to facilitate registrations, each student must provide the course instructors with an email **before October 15** to indicate the day of the Conference that they are planning to attend. Students will need to obtain their admission badges at the Conference registration area prior to attending any events.

Students are required to submit a maximum 1200-word summary that highlights their Conference experience. Summary reports can be provided in any format and should indicate what the student felt was most important from their Conference attendance in terms of furthering their interest in the wildlife field. Summary reports are to be submitted to the UofM Learn site by November 2, 2015.

G. General

Requirements for this course and rules regarding plagiarism may be found in the General Academic Regulations and Policy Section of the University of Manitoba Graduate and Undergraduate Calendars.

Evaluative feedback will be provided upon request of the individual student before the voluntary withdrawal deadline date (November 18, 2015).

H. Grading Scale

The grading scale to be used for this course is:

A+	90-100	C+	65-69
A	80-89	C	60-64
B+	75-79	D	50-59
B	70-74	F	0-49