

Wildlife Ecology & Management (Biology 3446B) Course Outline – Winter 2024

1. Course Information

Lectures: See schedule posted on OWL

Labs: See schedule posted on OWL

List of Prerequisites

Biology 2483A/B.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean's Designate (Department/Program Counsellors and Science Academic Counselling) to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

2. Instructor Information

Instructor: See details posted on OWL.

Teaching Assistant Information

TAs: See details posted on OWL.

For email correspondence, you must use your Western (@uwo.ca) email address and include "Biology 3446B" in the subject line. Office hours with teaching assistants are by appointment only, at their discretion, and can be requested by contacting them via email.

3. Course Description, Learning Outcomes, Schedule, Delivery Mode

Description

The application of ecological principles to the management of wildlife species. Topics include: techniques, harvest, predation, habitat loss and management, stocking and reintroductions, and economics of wildlife. Identification and biology of game, pest, and furbearing species in laboratories; films are used frequently.

Learning Objectives

Further to the goals of the course listed below, outcomes for each lecture will be released with the lecture. By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Describe common ideas and challenges to the management and conservation of wildlife populations and offer solutions to those challenges.
2. Explain the methods used to study wildlife.
3. Be able to identify bird, mammal, amphibian, and reptile species that are native to Canada.

Mode of Delivery

Lectures will take place in-person during the scheduled class periods. Labs will also take place in-person during the assigned lab periods. You must attend your assigned lab section as you are not allowed to attend other lab sections without written approval from the course instructor. The material covered in lectures and labs are outlined in the following *Tentative Schedule*.

Contingency Plan

Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in person, should any university-declared emergency require some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously or asynchronously, the course will adapt accordingly. The grading scheme will **not** change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor. More information is available in Section 8 of this syllabus.

Tentative Schedule

The lecture topics presented below are *tentative* and may change as the semester develops. I have invited guest speakers who may have to reschedule their talks. There will be periodic assigned readings in support of the lecture material posted periodically throughout the term. For those papers, you should make note of the purpose of the study and the major findings.

See schedule posted on OWL.

4. Course Materials

No textbook for the course is required, but a field guide is recommended. I personally like to have a physical copy because a well-organized field guide will put similar species close together, making it easier to perform an identification. The website allaboutbirds.org is an excellent resource for birds, available for free. iNaturalist.org is another good resource, and it covers a wide variety of species.

All course material (including required readings) will be posted to OWL (<https://owl.uwo.ca>); hence you should check OWL on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class. You are responsible for checking OWL on a regular basis. If you need assistance, you can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, you can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk; they can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

5. Methods of Evaluation

The overall course grade will be calculated as listed below:

Assessment	Additional Information	Weight
Lab Midterm	Time, date, and location are TBA.	25%
Lab Final Exam	Time, date, and location are TBA.	25%
Midterm	Time, date, and location are TBA.	25%
Final Exam	Time, date, and location are scheduled by the Registrar's Office.	25%
Lab Quizzes (6)	Brief quizzes on identifying animals presented in labs will take place during scheduled lab times. The quizzes will be conducted at the beginning of your scheduled lab period. There are 6 quizzes in total. Your quiz grades will not be used in the calculation of your overall course grade; the quizzes serve as opportunities to practice your species ID skills in preparation for the lab midterm and final exam.	0%

Evaluation Content & Expectations

Lab evaluations may include bonus questions. The content of the bonus questions is meant to be a surprise, so there will not be any bonus questions on makeup tests. Unless a question on the midterm or final exam specifically says to include additional sources, answers will be marked based on information presented by the course instructor, guest lectures, any videos presented in class, and from assigned readings. Answers to all questions must be in your own words. That is, you may not copy-and-paste a lecture transcript and expect to receive full marks for a question.

6. Student Absences

Absences from Midterm and/or Lab Midterm

If you experienced an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant to temporarily render you unable to write the midterm, the lab midterm, and/or the lab final exam, you may submit a request for academic consideration through the Academic Counselling Office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as possible.

For medical absences, you must submit a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner to the Academic Counselling office of your Faculty of Registration. The Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is available at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

For further information, please consult the University's medical illness policy at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration.pdf.

Additionally, you are required to contact the instructor within 24 hours of the end of the period covered. Individual instructors are **not** permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. Thus, all documentation required for absences **must** be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of your Home Faculty. Once granted academic consideration, you will have the opportunity to either write a make-up examination (if the associated final exam is non-cumulative) or have the weight of your midterm reallocated to the final exam (if the associated final exam is cumulative).

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss a Final Exam, please contact the Academic Counselling office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a "Multiple Exam Situation" (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period). If you fail to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

7. Accommodation and Accessibility

Religious Accommodation

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at <https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

8. Academic Policies, Virtual Classroom Policies, & Use of AI Software

The website for Registrarial Services is <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

In accordance with policy, https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf, the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

Electronic devices are not permitted during quizzes and exams, with the exception of non-programmable, non-graphing calculators.

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

The work you submit must be your own. Although it is normal to work with a partner on assignments, you must put your submission in your own words. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, consult the above website or discuss with your instructor before submitting any work to be graded. Remember to cite the ideas of others if you are using their published work in your assignments.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Professionalism & Privacy

Western students are expected to follow the **Student Code of Conduct**. Additionally, the following expectations and professional conduct apply to this course:

- Students are expected to interact with their instructor and fellow students with courtesy and respect. The instructor will first issue a warning if he observes any behaviour that is or might be considered offensive. Subsequent infractions will result in a grade penalty. The warning will mention the extent of the penalty for a similar infraction.
- All course materials created by the instructor(s) are copyrighted and cannot be sold/shared.
- Recordings are not permitted (audio or video) without explicit permission.
- Permitted recordings are not to be distributed without explicit permission.
- Students will be expected to take an academic integrity pledge before some assessments.
- All recorded sessions will remain within the course site or unlisted if streamed.

Use of AI Software

Generative AI is a useful tool for accomplishing many tasks; however, this course requires students to be able to identify and understand concepts unassisted. You may use generative AI as a learning and study tool, but the use of generative AI for any course assessments, is strictly prohibited. These assessments are designed to evaluate your individual understanding of the course material and your ability to engage in mathematical reasoning independently. If the use of generative AI is suspected, the matter will be further investigated. If the use of generative AI is detected, you will receive a grade of zero for the assessment and potentially face greater academic penalties.

Remote Online Contingency Plan

In the event that exams need to be conducted online, they will be conducted using a remote proctoring service. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide **personal information** (including some biometric data) and the session will be **recorded**. Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at: <https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>.

9. Support Services

Please visit the Science & Basic Medical Sciences Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: <https://www.uwo.ca/sci/counselling/>.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<http://www.health.uwo.ca/mentalhealth>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

Learning-skills counsellors at the Student Development Centre (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website to manage your academics and well-being: <https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/>.

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.

10. Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Decolonization (EDID):

We acknowledge that Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Chonnonton Nations, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. This land continues to be home to diverse Indigenous peoples (e. g. First Nations, Métis, and Inuit) whom we recognize as contemporary stewards of the land and vital contributors of our society. Throughout Canada, North America, and the world, Indigenous Peoples are vital contributors to their communities, and we greatly value their presence, knowledge, and wisdom.

The pronouns used by Instructors and TAs:

See syllabus posted on OWL.