

Wildlife Ecology & Management (Biology 3446B)

Course Outline – Winter 2026

1. Course Information

Class times and locations

Lecture

Section 001	Mondays and Wednesdays	9:30am - 10:30am
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Lab

Section 002	Wednesday	2:30pm – 5:00pm
Section 003	Thursday	8:30am – 11:00am
Section 004	Thursday	11:00am – 1:30pm
Section 005	Thursday	2:30pm – 5:00pm
Section 006	Friday	9:00am – 11:30am

List of Prerequisites

Biology 2483A/B

Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from the Department of Biology to enroll in it, you may be removed and withdrawn from this course in accordance with university policy. This may be done after the add/drop deadline of the academic term, and the course will be marked as withdrawn (WDN) on your academic record. This decision may not be appealed.

2. Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Tim Hain

Email: thain@uwo.ca

Office: BGS 2028

Office hours: Wednesdays 11:00 AM to 3:30 PM

I have a second office in NCB that will use outside of my office hours

Teaching assistants	Email	Lab section
Tristan Ducharme	tduchar5@uwo.ca	TBA
Evelyn Petro	epetro@uwo.ca	TBA
TBA	TBA	TBA

Students must use their Western (@uwo.ca) email addresses when contacting their instructors. Instructors will respond to emails within 48 hours during weekdays (not including weekends and holidays). Emails will usually be addressed during regular work hours (9:00 am to 5:00 pm). We may choose, at our discretion, to respond outside these hours, depending on availability. If you have questions about the course that other students in the class might like answered, please post them to the Discussion Forum on Brightspace rather than emailing the instructor.

3. Course Syllabus, Schedule, Delivery Mode

Course Information

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.

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. From the labs, be able to identify bird, mammal, amphibian, and reptile species that are native to Canada.

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 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.

Section	Date	Lecture	Readings
Introduction to course	January 5	1	
History and why we manage wildlife	January 7	2	
Field methods I	January 12	3	Reading 1
Field methods II	January 14	4	
Field methods III	January 19	5	
Citizen Science	January 21	6	
Threats to wildlife I	January 26	7	Reading 2
Threats to wildlife II	January 28	8	
Population dynamics I	February 2	9	
Population dynamics II	February 4	10	
Predation and predator management I	February 9	11	
Predation and predator management II	February 11	12	Reading 3
No class (Reading week)	February 16		
No class (Reading week)	February 18		
Habitat management I	February 23	13	
Habitat management II	February 25	14	
Midterm on March 1 at 2pm (covering to end of Lecture 12)			
Exotic species management	March 2	15	

Introductions and reintroductions	March 4	16	
Vagrants	March 9	17	
Species at Risk	March 11	18	Reading 4
Fisheries management	March 16	19	
Cormorant management	March 18	20	Reading 5
Zoonotic diseases and the wildlife trade	March 23	21	
Decision Making	March 30	22	
Case study 1 in wildlife management	April 1	23	
Case study 2 in wildlife management	April 6	24	
Review session	April 8		

Laboratory schedule

In each lab denoted with an asterisk, there will be a practice quiz on identifying the animals that you learned in the previous week. These practice quizzes do not contribute to your final mark in the class, and will be graded by you immediately after the quiz. Because it is an important skill to be able to identify species quickly, no accommodations for time can be offered for the lab midterm or final.

The material in Lab 9 will be tested on the final exam.

Date (week of)	Description
January 12	Lab 1: Small mammals
January 19*	Lab 2: Large mammals
January 26*	Lab 3: Amphibians and reptiles
February 2	lab midterm in-lab (18%)
February 9	Lab 4: Hawks, owls, and gamebirds
February 16	No lab (Reading week)
February 23*	Lab 5: Waterfowl
March 2*	Lab 6: Shorebirds and near-passerines
March 9*	Lab 7: Passerines part 1
March 16*	Lab 8: Passerines part 2
March 23	lab final in-lab (30%)
March 30	Lab 9: field equipment

Classes begin: January 5, 2026

Spring Reading Week: February 14 – 22, 2026

Classes end: April 9, 2026

Exam period: April 12 – 30, 2026

4. Course Materials

There is no textbook for the course. There are five papers that are testable that will be assigned throughout the term. They will be available for download from the course website.

I recommend that students bring a notebook for the practice quizzes, and to take drawings or other notes that will help them learn the animals presented in the lab.

All course material will be posted to OWL: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/>

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/>) 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.

If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace Help](#) page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

5. Methods of Evaluation

Grading Scheme and Assessment Dates

The overall course grade will be calculated as listed below:

Lab midterm (week of February 2)	18%
Lab final (week of March 23)	30%
Midterm Test (March 1, 2-4pm, WSC 55)	20%
Final Exam (scheduled by the Registrar)	32%

The Makeup for lab midterm is February 11 at 11am in the lab.

The Makeup for the lab final is April 1 at 11am in the lab.

General information about missed coursework

Students must familiarize themselves with the *University Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs*, posted on the Academic Calendar:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf,

This policy does not apply to requests for Academic Consideration submitted for **attempted or completed work**, whether online or in person.

The policy also does not apply to students experiencing longer-term impacts on their academic responsibilities. These students should consult [Accessible Education](#).

For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar's webpage:

https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/

All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within 48 hours after the assessment date or submission deadline.

All Academic Consideration requests must include supporting documentation; however, recognizing that formal documentation may not be available in some extenuating circumstances, the policy allows students to make one Academic Consideration request **without supporting documentation** in this course. However, the following assessments are excluded from this and, therefore, always require formal supporting documentation:

- Examinations scheduled during official examination periods (Defined by policy)

- Practical laboratory and performance tests (Defined by policy)

When a student *mistakenly* submits their one allowed Academic Consideration request **without supporting documentation** for the assessments listed above or those in the **Coursework with Assessment Flexibility** section below, the request cannot be recalled and reapplied. This privilege is forfeited.

Regrade requests for tests and assignments must be submitted within 3 weeks of the return of grades. Any requests received after that will not be considered.

Evaluation Scheme for Missed Assessments

Makeup tests are offered for the lab tests as well as the lecture-based midterm.

If a student misses both the initial offering as well as the makeup for the lab midterm, the grade will be shifted to the lab final. If the student misses the lab final, that weight will be shifted to the final exam scheduled by the Office of the Registrar. If the student misses both the lab midterm and lab final, they will not be permitted to pass the course.

If a student misses the initial offering of the lecture-based midterm, the weight of that test will be shifted to the final exam.

When a student misses the Final Exam and their Academic Consideration has been granted, they will be allowed to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam). See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)), especially for those who miss multiple final exams within one examination period.

Essential Learning Requirements

Even when Academic Considerations are granted for missed coursework, the following are deemed essential to earn a passing grade.

- Completion of at least one lab test (the lab midterm or lab exam). In the event that a student does not complete at least one lab test, they will receive a grade of Incomplete (INC) for the course and will be given an opportunity to complete a lab test in the next offering of the course.

6. Additional Statements

6.1 Religious Accommodation

When a recognized religious holiday or observance conflicts with an examination, test, or other scheduled academic obligation, students must request accommodation via the University's Student Absence Portal (SAP). This request should identify the conflict and specify which course component(s) (e.g. test, midterm, exam) are affected.

Students are encouraged to submit the SAP request as early as possible, but no later than two weeks before any examination, or one week before any mid-term test or quiz, to allow sufficient time for adjustment.

The SAP request serves as official notification to both the course instructor and the Academic Advising Office, in accordance with University policy:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_religious.pdf

The Faculty of Science considers religious accommodations as scheduling conflicts. Instructors should provide either a make-up exam or an earlier sitting of the same exam to accommodate the student.

For more information on recognized religious holidays, please visit the Diversity Calendar posted on the Equity, Diversity & Inclusion website - <https://www.edi.uwo.ca>

6.2 Academic 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.

6.3 General Academic Policies

The website for Registrar Services is <https://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>.

Use of @uwo.ca email: 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 email address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that emails received from the University at their official university address are attended to in a timely manner.

Requests for Relief (formally known as “appeals”)

Policy on Request for Relief from Academic Decision:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/requests_for_relief_from_academic_decisions.pdf

Procedures on Request for Relief from Academic Decision (Undergraduate):

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/undergrad_requests_for_relief_procedure.pdf

[If cross-listed as a grad course] Procedures on Request for Relief from Academic Decision (Graduate):

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/graduate_requests_for_relief_procedure.pdf

6.4 Scholastic Offences

Policy on Scholastic Offences:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf

Procedures on Scholastic Offences (Undergraduate):

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/undergrad_scholastic_offence_procedure.pdf

[If cross-listed as a grad course] Procedures on Scholastic Offences (Graduate):

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/graduate_scholastic_offence_procedure.pdf

[Required] Use of Electronic Devices During Assessments

In courses offered by the Faculty of Science, the possession of unauthorized electronic devices during any in-person assessment (such as tests, midterms, and final examinations) is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: mobile phones, smart watches, smart glasses, and wireless earbuds or headphones.

Unless explicitly stated otherwise in advance by the instructor, the presence of any such device at your desk, on your person, or within reach during an assessment will be treated as a *scholastic offence*, even if the device is not in use.

Only devices expressly permitted by the instructor (e.g., non-programmable calculators) may be brought into the assessment room. It is your responsibility to review and comply with these expectations.

Use of Generative AI Tools

Unless otherwise stated, the use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, Google Gemini, or similar platforms) is **not permitted** in the completion of any course assessments, including but not limited to: assignments, lab reports, presentations, tests, and final examinations.

Using such tools for content generation, code writing, problem solving, translation, or summarization—when not explicitly allowed—will be treated as a **scholastic offence**.

If the use of generative AI is permitted for a particular assessment, the conditions of use will be specified by the instructor in advance. If no such permission is granted, students must assume that use is prohibited. It is your responsibility to seek clarification before using any AI tools in academic work.

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.

6.5 Support Services

Please visit the Science & Basic Medical Sciences Academic Advising webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, requests for relief, 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 (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced GBSV (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. If you have any questions regarding accommodations, you may also wish to contact Accessible Education at

http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

Learning-skills counsellors at Learning Development and Success (<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.

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