WLE 250 Wildlife Field Survey May 2017

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Overview: This course has four broad goals: 1) to improve student skills in wildlife identification and natural history, 2) to understand research design and scientific methods, 3) to gain "hands-on" experience with research equipment and techniques, and 4) to be introduced to resource management issues. There will be an integrated set of class exercises, group projects, field trips, workshops, lectures, and visits to management areas. Work on wildlife identification will be continuous throughout the twelve days.

Punctuality: You are expected to be on time for all activities. We have a tight schedule and must adhere to it strictly. We may deviate from the schedule below due to unforeseen circumstances, but you should always plan to meet in the dining area at CCLC at all listed times unless otherwise noted or instructed.

General Rules: Many of you will have had courses or experiences that will help contribute to the overall success of this course. Everyone is expected to serve as an instructor in his/her area of expertise. There will be **no alcohol** allowed in University vehicles or at the Cobscook Community Learning Center. Use of alcohol or controlled substances will result in dismissal from the course. Participants will be courteous to other students at all times. Please discuss any concerns with the Instructors at any time.

Safety: Safety is a high priority, and reckless behavior will not be tolerated. Ask questions if you are unsure about a procedure. Every student is expected to be familiar with basic use of a compass and should be able to read a map. Everyone is expected to wear a personal floatation device (PFD) at all times while using a canoe. This policy must be strictly adhered to because of use of chest or hip boots while canoeing, extremely cold water, and potentially dangerous activities such as canoeing in tidal areas or fast moving water. Plus, wearing a PFD is a University of Maine policy.

Grading: Grades will be based on the following:

1. Independent Project	20
2. Avian Habitat Project Exam	15
3. Bird and Amphibian ID Quiz	15
4. Fish and aquatic insect ID Quiz	5
5. Plant ID Quiz	15
6. Final Exam	20
7. Class Participation	10

Contact info: Cobscook Community Learning Center, 10 Commissary Point Rd, Trescott, ME 04652
207-733-2233

WLE 250 2017 -- Tentative Schedule*

Monday, May 15	8:45 am	Class meeting outside of Nutting Hall
	9:00 am	Depart for the Cobscook Community Learning Center
	10:15 am	Atlantic Salmon Restoration, Green Lake Nat. Fish Hatchery
	afternoon	Lab Orientation, Bird/amphibian ID by song/call
	6:30 pm	Ethics of working with animals
	7:00 pm	Woodcock surveys MNWR (sunset 7:50)
Tuesday, May 16	6:00 am	Mandatory bird walk (ID by song)
	8:15 am	**GROUP 1** - Intertidal Ecology Field Trip (low 10:45 am, 0.9 ft)
		GROUP 2 – Migrating anadromous fish passage monitoring
	11:00 am	Radio-telemetry - Lecture and Reading
	12:45 pm	Management tour at Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge
	4:30 pm	Plant ID workshop
	7:00 pm	Map and compass workshop
Wednesday, May 17	6:30 am	Mandatory Bird Walk (ID by song)
	8:15 am	**GROUP 1** – Migrating anadromous fish passage monitoring
	9:00 am	**GROUP 1** – Intertidal Ecology Field Trip (low 11:30 am, 1.2 ft)
	1:00 pm	Develop study design for Avian Habitat Use Project
	4:00 pm	Bird mist-netting and banding; set-up mist-nets and bat detectors
	7:15 pm	Woodcock surveys MNWR (sunset 7:52)
Thursday, May 18	4:00 am	Ruffed grouse drumming survey
	5:30 am	Bird mist-netting (sunrise 4:56)
	6:00 am	Avian habitat use field-work
	10:00 am	Set-up woodcock mistnets
	11:00 am	Fish and aquatic insect identification lecture with Steve Coghlan
	1:00 pm	**GROUP 1** - Electrofishing demonstration in MNWR
		GROUP 2 – Radio-telemetry
	6:30 pm	Plant ID workshop
	7:00 pm	Woodcock surveys MNWR
Friday, May 19	4:00 am	Ruffed grouse drumming survey (sunrise 4:55)
	5:30 am	Bird mist-netting/grouse traps
	6:00 am	Avian habitat use field-work
	10:30 am	Set-up woodcock mistnets/and/or turtle and minnow traps
	1:00 pm	**GROUP 1** - Electrofishing demonstration in MNWR
		GROUP 2 – Radio-telemetry
	4:00 pm	Check turtle and minnow traps
	Evening	Data entry (to be completed by 7 pm)
	7:00 pm	Woodcock capture (USGS/USFWS) (sunset 7:55)
Saturday, May 20	4:00 am	Ruffed grouse drumming survey
	8:00 am	Check turtle and minnow traps
	10:00 am	Avian Habitat Use Project - class analyses
	1:30 pm	Project analysis exam
	3:00 pm	Study design for independent projects
	6:30 pm	Mist-netting
	7:00 pm	Independent project planning

Sunday, May 21	4:00 am	Ruffed grouse drumming survey
	6:00 am	Depart for Cutler, Maine for Machias Seal Island
	Afternoon	INDEPENDENT PROJECTS
	7:00 pm	Demonstration of SYSTAT
Monday, May 22	6:00 am	INDEPENDENT PROJECTS
	Afternoon	Small mammal and camera traps
	7:00 pm	Demonstration of SYSTAT
		Rain-date for woodcock capture (USGS/USFWS)
Tuesday, May 23	7:00 am	Small mammal trapping
	8:00 am	INDEPENDENT PROJECTS
	3:00 pm	Project analysis; work on presentations
Wednesday, May 24	6:00 am	Small mammal trapping
	8:00 am	Project presentations
	1:00 pm	**GROUP 1**: Great Works Wildlife Management area
		GROUP 2: West Quoddy Head
	Evening	Study time
Thursday, May 25	5:30 am	Marsh bird surveys (optional)
	8:30 am	**GROUP 1**: Great Works Wildlife Management area
		GROUP 2: West Quoddy Head
	3:00 pm	Plant ID workshop and review
	6:00 pm	Plant ID field quiz
	Evening	Study time
Friday, May 26	8:30 am	Course evaluations, bird & amphibian ID quiz, Final Exam
	1:30 pm	Depart for UM
	5:00 pm	Class Dismissed!

*The course schedule may be altered at any moment with minimum notice due to unpredictable circumstances.

Grading Policies and Expectations

WLE 250 is a fast-paced, full-immersion field course. Students are expected to be fully engaged with course activities, participate with a positive attitude, be courteous and respectful, and ask questions for clarification. Your participation grade will be determined based on your engagement, involvement, and willingness to assist your peers and instructors, and other course grades (e.g. your independent projects) may be additionally affected by your attitude, level of engagement, and demonstration of work ethic.

Independent Projects will be assessed based on a combination of independent thought and creativity during the planning stage, clear articulation of goals and objectives, careful thought about study design and rigor, consideration of both sample size and appropriate replication, the degree of effort you make to maximize data richness to strengthen your analyses (given the time available to you), application of appropriate statistical techniques and accurate interpretation of results, clear and professional presentations, contributions of individuals to the group effort, and general professionalism during the entire project process.

The Final Exam will be cumulative and cover all of the topics covered during the course, including the results of your peer's independent projects, material presented in the required readings, and guest lectures. If you have any questions or require additional information, please ask one of the instructors.