Wildlife Conservation Laws & Legislation  
WIS-6557

Instructor: Susan Underkoffler, MFS

Available online (online chat): Mondays 10:00AM-12:00PM EST; Thursdays 8:00PM-10:00PM EST

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Office: Remote

Text: There are NO required texts for this course. Readings from relevant literature will be provided.

This course will most frequently utilize material from:


Required Equipment: Computer with reliable, high speed internet access; your preferred web browser; video player with ability to play MP4 videos; speakers and/or headphones and working sound; PDF reader. For more information on hardware and software necessary to run Canvas, visit https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2059 (Links to an external site.). Canvas offers mobile applications for both Apple (Links to an external site.) and Android (Links to an external site.) products. These apps may be downloaded in the respective app stores. Depending on the device and your equipment, not all Canvas features may be available on the app at this time. For more information on Canvas apps, visit https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-1542 (Links to an external site.).

Course Description:
Students completing this course will have a better understanding of the legal considerations surrounding the environment and wildlife issues in general. Students will have learned the laws and policies applicable to national and international wildlife and environmental conservation and will have become familiar with the organizations tasked with developing and enforcing the law. They will also have an understanding of the cultural and societal concerns and contemporary conservation issues. Learning objectives will be accomplished through a combination of lecture material, readings, writing assignments, and online active discussions. Case studies will be used to supplement the lessons.

**Topics (Subject to Change):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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| **1 – Introduction** | Course Introduction/Expectations  
Syllabus  
The Basics of Wildlife Law in the USA  
Discussion Question(s) |
| **2 – Wildlife Legal Concerns in US States** | US State Ownership and Public Interest  
Capturing and Owning  
Discussion Question(s)  
Quiz 1 |
| **3 – The US Constitution and State Game Laws** | US Constitution Framework and the Bill of Rights  
State Game Laws and Liability  
Discussion Question(s) |
| **4 – Private Lands and Fisheries** | Challenges of Publicly Owned Wildlife on Private Land  
Inland Fisheries Concerns  
Discussion Question(s)  
Quiz 2 |
| **5 – Federal Concerns** | Federal Statutes  
Indian Tribal Rights and Regulation  
Discussion Question(s) |
| **6 – Key Legislation** | Wildlife on Federal Lands  
The Endangered Species Act:  
Species Listing  
Critical Habitat  
Protection  
Discussion Question(s)  
Quiz 3 |
| **7 – The Future of US Wildlife Law** | Endangered Species Act Continued  
Current Issues  
Considering the Future of American Wildlife Law  
Discussion Question(s) |
<p>| <strong>8 – Midterm Exam</strong> | Midterm Exam |
| <strong>9 – International</strong> | History of International Wildlife Law |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Subtopics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Law - The Beginning</td>
<td>Beginning of Environmental Awareness The International Legal System Discussion Question(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 – Putting It Into Practice</td>
<td>International Law: Implementation and Enforcement Discussion Question(s) Quiz 4</td>
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<td>11 – Species Regulation and Governance</td>
<td>Species Regulation: Fish &amp; Cetaceans Discussion Question(s)</td>
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<td>12 – Species Regulation and Governance</td>
<td>Species Regulation: Birds Discussion Question(s) Quiz 5</td>
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<td>13 – Regional Regulation</td>
<td>Western Hemisphere Europe Africa Polar Regions Discussion Question(s)</td>
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<td>14 – Global Regulation</td>
<td>Ramsar Convention on Wetlands World Heritage Convention Biodiversity Convention and Biosafety Protocol Discussion Question(s) Quiz 6</td>
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<td>15 - Global Regulation</td>
<td>CITES Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species Discussion Question(s)</td>
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<td>16 – Cross-sectoral Issues</td>
<td>Wildlife Trade Wildlife Welfare Pollution Impacts to Wildlife Pollution Regulation Discussion Question(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 – Final Exam</td>
<td>Final Exam &amp; Course Wrap-up Research Paper Due</td>
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**Grading:**

**Exams:** There will be two exams: a midterm and a final. The exams will each consist of 20 multiple choice questions worth 2 points each and two short essay questions worth 10 points each for a total of 60 points per exam. The exams will open on a Monday morning (EST) and be due by 11:59 PM EST the following Sunday. The exams will be open book and the students may use the readings and their notes from the lectures.

**Weekly Discussion Questions/Projects:** There will either be one-two discussion questions or a short project assigned for each Module; each discussion question is worth 2-10 points and each short project will be worth 5-20 points. Discussion questions/short projects will open on a Monday morning (EST) and be due by 11:59 PM EST the following Sunday. The discussions
will remain open for the duration of the semester, but you must post at least one response by the following Sunday to receive credit. Extra credit may be given for thought-provoking, on-going discussions.

**Quizzes:** There will be six quizzes throughout the semester. These are open-note/book, consisting of 10 multiple choice questions worth 2 points each for a total of 20 points per quiz. The quizzes will open on a Monday morning (EST) and be due by 11:59 PM EST the following Sunday.

**Final Project:** There will also be a research project to consist of 8-10 typewritten pages (not including extraneous material) that will be due the last week of class, worth 200 points. It will require students to do research outside the provided materials for class.

Each assignment will have an accompanying rubric explaining the breakdown of how points are to be distributed.

**MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS WILL NOT BE GIVEN UNLESS ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE PRIOR TO THE EXAM DATE. IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY AND YOU ARE UNABLE TO TAKE THE EXAM ON THE DATE IT IS ADMINISTERED TO THE CLASS, A DOCTOR’S NOTE MUST BE PROVIDED IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO RETAKE THE EXAM.**

**DISCUSSION QUESTION ANSWERS OR ASSIGNMENTS SUBMITTED LATE (WITHOUT A DOCTOR’S NOTE OR SIMILAR EXCUSE) WILL NOT RECEIVE CREDIT.**

Grades will be assigned as follows:
A 90% or Above
A- 88 - 89%
B+ 85 - 87%
B 80 - 84%
B- 78 - 79%
C+ 75 - 77%
C 70 - 74%
C- 68 - 69%
D+ 65 - 67%
D 60 - 64%
D- 58 - 59%
E < 58

There will be no curve.

**Additional information on the University of Florida Grades and Grading Policies may be found at:** [http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html)

**Grade Changes:**
Grades will be changed only when a grading error has been made. If you think an error has been made, you should email the instructor as soon as possible and your concerns will be considered.

**About online participation:** This course is offered online, using the learning management system Canvas provided by the University of Florida. Online participation is expected throughout the course. If the course requires scheduled online activities, absences must be documented. If not documented, such behavior may result in a course withdrawal issued for the students. Students are expected to complete the assigned readings and to login to the course discussion boards and post messages to each of the threads provided in the discussion forums. Active participation in the course will count towards the final grade, and assist students with the exams and written assignments.

Lectures for the week will be posted by the Monday of the class week (barring any unforeseen computer/programming issues). Lectures are organized to build on one another. Students may view lectures as often as desired. Lectures from previous weeks will remain on the course page for the duration of the semester.

**Getting Started:**
To get started, briefly introduce yourself via the discussion board located in the left-hand menu on the homepage of the course. Once you have responded to the Introduction you will then go to the first module. Read through the course content and any required reading listed in the module introduction. Do not hesitate to contact your instructor at any time if you need guidance; if you are unsure about the focus of the assignment; if you have assignment questions or questions relating to the course content. If you don’t tell us you need help, we can’t help you!

**Revision and Notes:**
We will not be able to provide you with copies of course content once the course is removed from your account.

**Communication:**
Course Email, not the discussion board, should always be used contact the faculty or staff if you have a problem of a personal nature. If you are having technical problems with the course content (downloads, etc) or you are unable to access your course interface, please contact us directly, and please don’t spend hours trying to get something to work as this will only lead to frustration. We don't want any of you to be offline for any length of time. Contact us as soon as you can so we can check it out and help you. If you are experiencing difficulty with your access to course email then please email your course instructor directly via regular email. In that email, make sure you give your name and the name of your course. Please respond to all emails from your instructor or TA. When we email you we are usually contacting you because we want to help you. If you have a question about your grade, an exam, or assignment question, please email us and we’ll be happy to help you.

**Announcements:**
It’s VERY important that you check the site daily and read all the posted announcements/emails. I will use these areas to notify you of important information relating to content or exam changes, deadlines etc.
**Attendance:** Students must participate in the bulletin board discussions, and are required to visit the course website daily for important updates and bulletins.

**Class Participation:** Students are expected to constructively join in bulletin board discussions with appropriate preparation, to post interesting and relevant information on the class bulletin board, and to interact professionally with their classmates.

**Performance Expectations:** Students are expected to produce quality work of a standard comparable to any graduate level didactic course. Bulletin postings and discussions must be legible, constructive and appropriate. Students are required to think for themselves and will be expected to complete assignments that require the application of logic and reasoning skills when the answer may not be found in a book or the course notes.

**Academic Honesty:** All students are expected to abide by the student honor code. To review the student honor code read the information on standards of ethical Conduct at: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honorcodes/honorcode.php

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism includes any attempt to take credit for another person’s work. This includes quoting directly from a book or web site, without crediting the source. Sources should always be referenced, a link to the website added, or quotation marks placed around the material. However, we expect more than simply cutting and pasting in this graduate level course. Students are expected to review, evaluate and comment on material they research, rather than simply copying relevant material. Your work will be graded accordingly.

**Assignments:** While we understand that our students have other work and personal commitments, we expect every effort to be made to meet these deadlines. If for some reason, because of circumstances beyond your control, you are unable to meet an assignment deadline, students should e-mail the professor and explain the situation in advance. Being consistently late in submitting assignments disrupts the discussion of topics on the bulletin board and will therefore result in loss of marks for that assignment up to a full letter grade. If you email us we will work with you around the deadline. If you have outstanding assignments at the end of the semester we will send you a follow up email as a reminder and as a means to determine your plans for completion. If you do not respond to us before the final day of classes you will be assigned a grade based on the completed assignments.

**Incomplete grades:** Under special circumstances, if a student is unable to finish a course before the end of the semester we may be able to assign an incomplete grade. An incomplete grade is a non punitive grade assigned at the discretion of the course instructor. In this course an incomplete grade may be assigned if 1/3rd or more of the course assignments have been completed and if the student has remained in communication with TA’s and instructors throughout the course, or has made an effort to request an incomplete grade. If an incomplete grade is assigned, outstanding assignments must be completed by the end of the next semester. If the assignments are not completed in this time you will be assigned a grade based on the completed assignments.
**Drop Dates:** consult the UF Calendar of Critical Dates at: [http://forensicscience.ufl.edu/student-resources/critical-dates/](http://forensicscience.ufl.edu/student-resources/critical-dates/)

Students must inform us that they are withdrawing from a course to ensure appropriate tuition reimbursement. Deleting yourself from the course roster does not officially withdraw you from a course.

**Important Dates:**
For Assignment deadlines - see the course Calendar.
For other important dates, consult the UF Calendar of Critical Dates and [http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/)

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting the accommodation.