Syllabus
Wildlife Damage Management
WILD 5410/6410
3 Credit Hours, Spring Semester, Odd Years

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Jim Armstrong, Professor/Extension Wildlife Specialist

OFFICE: 3331 SFWS

PHONE: 844-9233; e-mail: armstjb@auburn.edu

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to familiarize students with the basic philosophy, biology and techniques related to managing negative human-wildlife interactions.


COURSE FORMAT: All students will have lectures, discussions, assigned reading, lecture assignments, three hourly lecture exams, and the final. Additionally, those students enrolled at the graduate level will have a class project due at the end of the semester. A description of the class projects will be distributed separately each year. The individual projects will vary annually and among graduate students, but will basically entail development of web-based teaching modules to broaden the experience of all the class participants. These will be incorporated into the course over time as self-teaching units.

The course will consist of 2 hours of lecture and 1 hour of mandatory lab per week. Lab meetings will consist of regularly scheduled meetings for 1 hour per week. In addition, several opportunistic labs will be offered in conjunction with USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services. It is impossible to predict a priori when these labs might arise and they may not be convenient to everyone’s schedule. However, these labs provide students with the chance to experience, first-hand, actual wildlife damage issues; thus, the participation is strongly encouraged. Efforts will be made to maximize hands-on management experiences in all labs, both mandatory and opportunistic.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Human-wildlife interactions are becoming more common; unfortunately, many of these interactions have negative consequences for the humans and or the offending wildlife species. Upon completion of this course, students will have a working knowledge of the history and practice of wildlife damage management (WDM) and be able to discuss and demonstrate a working knowledge of the biological aspects of the species causing damage, identification of damage, the sociological issues related to damage, and a suite of legal techniques of control.

The course is open to upper-level undergraduates and graduate students. Students of both levels will gain a conceptual and practical understanding of the science of WDM. In
addition to the conceptual and practical aspects of WDM, graduate students will gain an understanding of the philosophical aspects of WDM and greater experience in the application of methods of WDM. It is hoped that these experiences will augment their graduate experience and equip them to practice and teach wildlife damage management. Graduate students will be expected to enhance classroom discussion by bringing into play their additional life experiences.

**GRADING:** Lecture tests will not be comprehensive and will be derived from reading assignments and lectures, but the final exam will be comprehensive and will emphasize synthesis of the information given throughout the semester. All assignments must be turned in on time for full credit. No excuses will be accepted for missing an exam unless for bona fide reasons (University or instructor approved). Medical excuses must indicate that your illness would prevent you from performing satisfactorily on an exam. A simple In-Out slip indicating that you visited the infirmary is not a satisfactory excuse. Do not wait until the week of an exam to notify me of any personal problems. Students that fail to take an exam and who were not previously excused will be given a zero for that exam. All excuses for not taking an exam must be presented before the scheduled exam. Students excused from taking a particular exam will make it up at the instructor's convenience. Make-up exams may differ from the missed exam. Any exam missed accidentally (e.g. faulty alarm clock, car problems, etc.) will be made up immediately upon the students arrival at my office. In the event of any type of emergency, call my office immediately and either speak to me or leave a phone number and/or message with the secretary. Do not miss an exam without notification! All exams are returned to me after the student has ample opportunity to examine the corrected test. Failure to return the exam at the end of the class period will result in a lowered grade for that exam. Student questions about the exams are welcomed and encouraged but bickering over fractions of points and/or behavior which demonstrate disrespect for the instructor will not be tolerated.

Grading will be done on a 10-point scale as follows: A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F = 59

Tentative Exam Schedule and Grading Format (5000 level-undergraduate students):

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CLASS ATTENDANCE: Students are expected to attend all lectures. Important information given in class may not be contained in a classmate's notes. You will be at a disadvantage if you do not attend class. Class will always be held unless I specify otherwise. In the event that I cannot be present for a class, either a substitute will meet with you, or the class will be made up at a time convenient to the majority. Students are responsible for acquiring missed notes from a classmate.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Auburn University expects students to pursue their academic work with honesty and integrity. Violations of the Student Academic Honesty Code and potential sanctions are detailed under Title XII of the SGA Code of Laws, which can be found in The Tiger Cub.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students who need special accommodations should make an appointment to discuss the Accommodations Memo with me as soon as possible. Please refer to The Tiger Cub for detailed information regarding the Program for Students with Disabilities. If you do not have an Accommodation Memo, but need special accommodations, contact the Program for Students with Disabilities in 1244 Haley Center (844-2096).

LECTURE TOPICS *

1. Eradication to Management - the philosophy and history of wildlife damage management
2. Threats to Human Safety
3. Zoonoses
4. Economics
5. Environmental Damage and Exotic Species
6  Lethal Control
7  Fertility Control
8  Wildlife Translocation
9  Repellents (Chemical and Mechanical)
10  Diversion
11  Exclusion
12  Habitat Manipulation
13  Human Dimensions of WDM
14  Integrated Management

* = Some topics may involve multiple lectures