

BRANDON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

38:373
BIOGEOGRAPHY AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor: Dr. C. D. Malcolm
Office: Brodie Building 4-05
Phone: 727-9770 email: malcolmc@brandonu.ca
Office Hours: Mon., Wed., & Fri. 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM and after class (also drop-in or by appointment)
Lectures: BB 3-42, Mon., Wed. & Fri. @ 12:40 PM to 1:30 PM (Slot 5)
Labs: Field or BB 3-44, Wed., 1:40 PM to 4:30 PM

Outline

This course explains the environmental factors that affect species diversity at spatial and temporal scales, including concepts such as biodiversity, patterns of distribution, island biogeography. We then use this knowledge as a basis for an interdisciplinary approach to the conservation and management of wildlife populations and their habitats. This requires an understanding of population growth and interaction, research design, and human dimensions of wildlife. Credit cannot be held for both this course and 38:276 and 38:374.

Grading and Due Date Summary

Assignment / Test	Value	Date Due / Date of Test
Regional Native Plant Assignment	10%	Monday, September 30
Wildlife Management Plan Proposal (incl. 5 references)	2.5%	Monday, October 18
Test #1	17.5%	Friday, October 25
Wildlife Management Plan Draft Budget	2.5%	Friday, November 8
Wildlife Management Plan	15%	Wednesday, December 4
Test #2	17.5%	Wednesday, December 18, 2:00 pm
Labs	10 x 3.5% = 35%	Refer to Lab Schedule Table
Term Total	100%	

Topics

The lectures will follow this topic list. Every week or so I will post the most up to date lecture slides on the course Moodle site for you to study.

1. Introduction and definitions
2. Wildlife Populations and Biodiversity
3. Habitat and Patterns of Distribution
4. Population Growth and Interaction
5. Study Design
6. Management in Practice

Optional, more in-depth readings are available on RESERVE in the library. Use the readings to keep up with and delve further into the subjects covered in lecture. A link to a pdf of the reading list is available on the course Moodle site.

Tests

There will be a mid-term test in class on **Friday, October 25**. The mid-term test will cover lecture material from the first half of the term. The mid-term is worth 17.5%.

There will be a second test on Wednesday, **December 18th, at 2:00 pm**, when the final exam is scheduled for this course during the exam period,. The second test will cover lecture material that follows the mid-term test. The second test is also worth 17.5%

Assignment #1: Regional Native Plant Collection

This assignment is worth 10% of your term grade. It is due **Monday, September 30**.

For this assignment you will create a regional native plant collection that describes the biogeography of each plant. Detailed instructions are available on the course Moodle site.

Late assignments lose 10% per day (Saturday and Sunday count as one day). I will not accept assignments more than one week late.

Assignment #2: Wildlife Management Plan

This is an assignment in which you work in groups of two. It is worth a total of 20% of your term grade. A link to detailed instructions is available on the course Moodle site. Submit each portion of your assignment through the links on the Moodle site.

Due dates:

Species selection (sign-up sheet on my office door): ASAP (make sure there is information available on your species!)

Proposal (including 5 references): **Monday, October 7**

Draft budget: **Monday, November 4**

Final Plan Document: **Wednesday, December 4**

Value breakdown: Proposal 2.5% + Draft Budget 2.5% + Final Plan Document 15% = 20%

Late assignments lose 10% per day (Saturday and Sunday count as one day). The Moodle assignment submission links allow you to submit assignments starting one week before the due date and close one week following the due date. I will not accept assignments more than one week late.

Labs

There are ten (10) labs worth 3.5% each. The first five labs are outdoor field labs and the second five are indoors. Make sure you bring your field notebook and clothing appropriate for outdoor field-work (sturdy footwear, rain gear, hat, water, etc.). Remember, it is autumn and weather can change quickly. We go rain or shine (within reason).

Links to pdf files of the outdoor field lab assignments are available on the Moodle site. I will hand out the indoor labs.

Lab	Lab Date	Lab Name	Location	Lab Due
1	September 11	Spirit Sands Biogeography	Spruce Woods Provincial Park ¹	September 18
2	September 18	Native Grasses	Riverbank Discovery Centre	September 25
3	September 25	Vegetation Transects	Brandon Hills ²	October 2
4/5	October 2	Water Birds & Habitat #1	Oak Lake ³	October 16
	October 9	Water Birds & Habitat #2		
6	October 16	Park Size & Species Diversity: Lessons from Islands	3-44	October 23
7	October 23	Wood Storks and Honey Eaters: Estimating	3-44	October 30

		Population Characteristics		
8	October 30	Rescuing the Spotted Owl: Conserving Species in Multiple Populations	3-44	November 6
9	November 6	Giant Pandas: Risks Faced by Endangered Species	3-44	November 20
10	November 20	Hector's Dolphins and the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker: Conserving Dwindling Populations	3-44	November 27
	November 27	Available in case of weather cancellations	Otherwise work period for term project	

¹ We will leave @ 12:40 PM for this field lab. Come prepared for a hike, with appropriate footwear. Bring water and sunscreen if it is sunny and hot.

² We will leave @ 12:40 PM for this field lab. Come prepared for a 25 minute, easy hike into the site (sturdy footwear, rain gear, water, etc.). You must wear long pants and bring a long-sleeved shirt as we will be doing some bushwhacking.

³ We will leave @ 12:40 PM for this field lab. Come prepared for some walking. It is often windy and cold at this site - bring a jacket, gloves, hat.

Official Stuff

Academic Conduct

Academic dishonesty is unacceptable in this course and at Brandon University in general. Students caught cheating on quizzes, tests, or the final exam will be met with disciplinary action. Please refer to Section 3.14 (p.32) in the 2019-20 Brandon University Calendar for more information.

Grade Allocation

The following grade allocation is used at Brandon University. Please refer to Section 3.12.3 (p.28) in the 2019-20 Brandon University Calendar for more information.

Final Mark (%)	Grade	Grade Points	Final Mark (%)	Grade	Grade Points
90 – 100	A+	4.3	67 - 69	C+	2.3
85 - 89	A	4.0	63 - 66	C	2.0
80 - 84	A-	3.7	60 - 62	C-	1.7
77 - 79	B+	3.3	50 - 59	D	1.0
73 - 76	B	3.0	0 - 49	F	0
70 - 72	B-	2.7			

Accessibility Services

Brandon University values diversity and inclusion, recognizing disability as an aspect of diversity. Our shared goal is to create learning environments that are accessible, equitable, and inclusive for all students. The Student Accessibility Services (SAS) office works with students who have permanent, chronic, or temporary disabilities. SAS will provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations. If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g. mental health, attentional, learning, vision, hearing, physical, medical, or temporary), you are invited to contact Student Accessibility Services to arrange a confidential discussion at (204) 727-9759 or email magnussonm@brandonu.ca. Additional information is available on the Student Accessibility Services website <https://www.brandonu.ca/student-services/student-accessibility-services/>. If you are registered with SAS and have a letter requesting accommodations, you are encouraged to contact the instructor early in the term to discuss the accommodations outlined in your letter.