

Wildlife Biology and Conservation

Dan Shaw Lead Teacher, Kimi Scheerer Assisting Teacher

COURSE OVERVIEW

Wildlife Biology and Conservation (WBC) is a field-based, college preparatory course devoted to student participation in actual wildlife research and conservation projects. Through those activities and supported by supplemental readings students gain a broad understanding of the fields of wildlife and conservation biology as well as an understanding of each studied species' natural history, its landscape and ecological context, as well as its relationship with humans. Key areas of study in WBC projects include: the ethical and moral implications of live animal research; safety; wildlife management techniques and procedures; field research design and execution; data management; and the preparation of technical reports. WBC is an elective science class open to juniors and seniors and can be used to meet the fourth credit of science that a student must complete to graduate from Bosque's Upper School. Students enrolled in WBC can also enroll concurrently with NM State University's online wildlife biology class "WLSC 110 Introduction to Natural Resource Management."

SOME COURSE EXPECTATIONS

To be successful in WBC, students must be able to carefully and safely follow directions while working in a variety of difficult field settings. Furthermore, they must be self-directed and able to work without constant supervision. WBC students also must be able to work in a responsible manner with wildlife professionals such as field biologists, veterinarians, and similar people. Because of the unpredictable nature of wildlife research there is an inherent risk and unpredictability to both human researchers and wildlife subjects. As such, strict safety, ethical, humane, and other research guidelines must be absolutely followed. There is no free-lancing within this class. Students must have a stated protocol and prior approval from the teacher before participating in any activity involving wildlife.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Students earn points in each of the following areas:

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| 1. Class participation | 7. Environmental Education |
| 2. Weekly readings | 8. Wildlife skill, intermediate level |
| 3. Maintaining field journal | 9. Wildlife work 2 species (3 hours each) in/out class |
| 4. Field work out of class (6 hours per quarter) | 10. Student poster |
| 5. Quizzes | 11. Technical report or scientific paper |
| 6. Outreach/event beyond Bosque School | |

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AT BOSQUE SCHOOL

The school's standards for academic integrity as articulated in the student handbook apply in this class. Specific to WBC it is important to know the following. Although group and cooperative work are the norm within WBC students must still acknowledge the source of their written work and put in quotations or otherwise make clear when work is not original with them. When work is created cooperatively all contributors must be acknowledged in writing in the work. The fabrication of data or work is a horrendous academic betrayal. Science must be based on trustworthy and objective recording of experience and phenomenon. It is far better to have attempted to gather data or conduct an experiment and failed than to represent a falsehood that such an accomplishment was achieved when in fact it was not. What matters in the end is not an answer but the rigorous and detailed recording of what took place and what failed to take place. Students who do an honest attempt to complete a scientific investigation or activity will always receive credit for an assignment regardless of the activity's outcome.



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*Full syllabus available at
Dan Shaw's Teacher Web Page
accessed through:
www.bosqueschool.org*