

BIOL 830P: Predator Paradox

2017 SYLLABUS

Instructor: Dustin Ranglack, BHS 343, rangelackdh@unk.edu, 308-865-8545

Office hours: By appointment (or just call).

Course objectives: Following successful completion of this course, students will have developed the following skills:

1. A graduate-level understanding of central concepts in predator ecology and management, as well as perceptions of predators.
2. Ability to read, synthesize, and think critically about primary scientific literature.
3. Experience with collaborative research in predator ecology and management.

Textbook:

The Predator Paradox: Ending the War with Wolves, Bears, Cougars, and Coyotes

By John Shivik

This book is written for a popular audience, so we will supplement the reading material with readings from the primary literature that correspond to the book topics.

General Course Structure and Expectations:

This course is a mixture of lecture, online discussion of primary literature and the required book, and hands-on experience focused around a research project. You are expected to be prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Failure to do so will negatively affect your grade in the course.

This course is designed to provide advanced training for graduate students in a specialized area of ecology.

Grading:

40% of the grade will be based on a class research project, 50% will be based on participation in discussion, 10% will be for participating in a before/after survey on your personal perceptions of predators (no right or wrong answers, just participation).

Class Projects:

Because collaboration is an increasingly important skill in science, class projects will be done in groups. The project must be related to predator ecology and management. The research paper should be written following the style guidelines for *Ecology*. Research topics must be approved by **September 29, 2017**.

Course Policies: The blackboard discussion boards should be considered sanctuaries for the pursuit of knowledge. Those who enter them should be committed to learning and to respect the ideas and opinions of others. Undesirable behavior will lead to dismissal from the discussion board and even expulsion from the course. Undesirable behavior includes (but is not limited to), harassment of any kind or inappropriate or unrelated comments.

Cheating (at any level) is an intolerable behavior that has no place in any scientific, educational, or social activity. Penalties for cheating and plagiarism can be found on page xv of the university catalog.

Late assignments: Unless arrangements have been previously arranged, any assignment not turned in on time is a Late Assignment. Late assignments will be docked 10% of its total possible points per day, including holidays and weekends.

Grading Scale: The grading scale used for this class is as follows:

A (93-100%), A- (90-92%), B+ (88-89%), B (83-87%), B- (80-82%), C+ (78-79%), C (73-77%), C- (70-72%), D+ (68-69%), D (63-67%), D- (60-62%), and F (below 60%).

In general, grades for the course will be assigned as follows:

A – Indicates that the work is markedly superior and is without major problems. It is an honors grade denoting that the goals for the assignment or course have been achieved with distinction.

B – Indicates that the work has met all of the requirements of the assignment or course at a level that is consistently above average, and the student has achieved most of the goals.

C – Indicates satisfactory work that is consistently average and that meets the course goals at a sufficient level to pass, even though there may be some problems with the work.

D – Indicates the minimal achievement in order to earn credit, even though the work is below the standard required for good academic standing.

F – Indicates failure to complete an assignment or course, or work that does not fit into the requirements of the assignment or course or meet acceptable standards, so that no credit can be awarded.

Students with Disabilities or Those Who are Pregnant

Students with disabilities or those who are pregnant are encouraged to contact me for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska at Kearney to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to students with documented disabilities or those who are pregnant. To receive accommodation services for a disability, students must be registered with UNK Disabilities Services Coordinator, David Brandt, in the Academic Success Office, 163 Memorial Student Affairs Building, 308-865-8214 or by email unkdso@unk.edu. For those needing accommodation due to pregnancy, you need to visit with Student Health. The following link provides information for students and faculty regarding pregnancy rights. <http://www.nwlc.org/resource/pregnant-and-parenting-students-rights-faqs-college-and-graduate-students>

Reporting Student Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence or Sexual Assault

Reporting allegations of rape, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and stalking enables the University to promptly provide support to the impacted student(s), and to take appropriate action to prevent a recurrence of such sexual misconduct and protect the campus community. Confidentiality will be respected to the greatest degree possible. Any student who believes she or he may be the victim of sexual misconduct is encouraged to report to one or more of the following resources:

Local Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault Advocacy Agency 308-237-2599

Campus Police (or Security) 308-865-8911

Title IX Coordinator 308-865-8655

Retaliation against the student making the report, whether by students or University employees, will not be tolerated.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading (Subject to change), Additional Readings on Blackboard
Week 1	Introduction to Course	Syllabus, Phone Calls
Week 2	The Battlefield	Ch. 1
Week 3	Predators, People, and Prey: Impacts and Interactions	Ch. 2
	Data Availability and Group Project Discussion	
Week 4	Food: An Inseparable Connection	Ch. 3
	Group Project Discussion	
Week 5	Perceptions that Fuel the Paradox	Ch. 4
	Group Project Discussion	
Week 6	Research Projects: Discuss Project Topics and Work Plans	
Week 7	The Phenomenon of Fright: Disruptive Stimuli	Ch. 5
Week 8	Project Week	We will spend time talking about progress/ issues/ strategies/ writing/ etc.
Week 9	Personality and Peer Pressure	Ch. 6
Week 10	Of Spiked Doughnuts and Turbo-Charged Flagging: Testing Aversive Stimuli	Ch. 7
Week 11	Close, But Not Too Close: Altering Territories	Ch. 8
	Work on Projects	
Week 12	Animal Husbandry: Sometimes it's About Money, Sometimes it's Not	Ch. 9
Week 13	The Power of Emotion and the Need for Knowledge	Ch. 10
Weeks 14 & 15	Work on Projects	
December 8	PAPER DUE BY 5 PM CENTRAL	