

BIOL 830P: Predator Paradox

2021 SYLLABUS

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

Office hours: Tuesdays and Fridays, 10:30 – 12 via Zoom. Email first and I will send you a link.

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:

50% of the grade will be based on a class research project (40% for your project, 10% for a peer-review of another group's), 40% 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).

Discussion Groups:

This is the primary means by which your participation will be graded. You will be broken into small groups and expected to participate in 5 group video discussions via Zoom to discuss the readings and other materials, each worth 50 points. You will be divided into groups based on

your general availability (weekdays, weekends, morning, afternoon, evening) and are expected to record your discussions and submit them for credit. I will try to join at least one discussion from each group during the semester. You are expected to talk about the strengths/weaknesses of each paper, what you found particularly interesting/helpful from the readings, how did the reading change the way you think, what new questions do you have after the reading, etc.

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 *Conservation Biology* as if you were going to submit an Essay to the journal. Full details are posted on Canvas.

Course Policies: The Canvas 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%)	B- (80-82.9%)	D+ (67-69.9%)
A- (90-92.9%)	C+ (77-79.9%)	D (63-66.9%)
B+ (87-89.9%)	C (73-76.9%)	D- (60-62.9%)
B (83-86.9%)	C- (70-72.9%)	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: It is the policy of the University of Nebraska at Kearney to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to students with documented disabilities. To receive accommodation services for a disability, students must be registered with the UNK Disabilities Services for Students (DSS) office, 175 Memorial Student Affairs Building, 308-865-8214 or by email unkdso@unk.edu

UNK Statement of Diversity & Inclusion:

UNK stands in solidarity and unity with our students of color, our Latinx and international students, our LGBTQIA+ students and students from other marginalized groups in opposition to racism and prejudice in any form, wherever it may exist. It is the job of institutions of higher education, indeed their duty, to provide a haven for the safe and meaningful exchange of ideas and to support peaceful disagreement and discussion. In our classes, we strive to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication and mutual respect. UNK does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, disability or political affiliation. Respect for the diversity of our backgrounds and varied life experiences is essential to learning from our similarities as well as our differences. The following link provides resources and other information regarding D&I:
<https://www.unk.edu/about/equity-access-diversity.php>

Students Who are Pregnant

It is the policy of the University of Nebraska at Kearney to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to students who are pregnant. To receive accommodation services due to pregnancy, students must contact Cindy Ference in Student Health, 308-865-8219. 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.

Veterans Services

UNK works diligently to support UNK's military community by providing military and veteran students and families with resources and services to help them succeed. Veterans Services assists with the GI Bill process and acts as a liaison between the student and the Veterans Administration. If you need assistance or would like more information, please contact Lori Weed Skarka at 308-865-8520 or unkveterans@unk.edu.

University Policies Related to COVID-19: The university community is deeply concerned for the well-being of its students, faculty, and staff. Keeping each other as safe as possible will require commitment from each of us; failure to do so will literally place lives in danger. The full policy relating to mitigation of the spread of infectious diseases can be found at <https://www.unk.edu/coronavirus/> Policies that apply to all courses (online, remote, blended, or face-to-face) include:

- Students shall monitor their health daily. No student shall attend classes in person while sick. Those who have had contact with positive-tested individuals or show COVID-19 related symptoms must have clearance from the Public Health Center prior to returning to face-to-face classes. There will be no penalties for missing classes for COVID-19 related absences provided the student has documentation from the Public Health Center. Students will still be responsible for course content through alternative attendance or other options arranged with the instructor.

Additional policies specific to face-to-face instruction include the following:

1. During Phases I and II, all students are required to wear masks that cover the nose and mouth at all times during class and at any time, inside or outside, where physical distancing of at least 6' is not possible. Instructors have the authority to direct students who refuse to wear masks to leave the classroom. Students who have medical issues that make masks inadvisable should contact Disability Services for Students at 308.865.8214 to request an exemption.
2. Students shall not arrive for class more than 5 minutes before the scheduled start time for the course. Instructors shall dismiss students promptly at the end time and all shall leave the classroom promptly. Students who have questions should use office hours rather than before/after class times.
3. Instructors and students should clean their desks prior to class. Cleaning materials will be provided.

Questions regarding COVID-19 should be directed to the Public Health Center unkhealth@unk.edu or 308-865-8254. Questions regarding the COVID-19 academic policy should be directed to Sr. Vice Chancellor Bicak at bicakc@unk.edu. Questions regarding department specific requirements should be directed to Dr. Julie Shaffer at shafferjj@unk.edu.

The above directions must be followed by everyone for the health and safety of our University. Students who do not comply may face disciplinary action from the university. Violations of any University or Campus Policy is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Reading (Additional Readings on Canvas)	Discussion
Week 1	Introduction to Course	Syllabus	
Week 2	The Battlefield	Ch. 1	
Week 3	Predators, People, and Prey: Impacts and Interactions	Ch. 2	1
Week 4	Food: An Inseparable Connection	Ch. 3	
Week 5	Perceptions that Fuel the Paradox	Ch. 4	2
Week 6	Project Week		
Week 7	The Phenomenon of Fright: Disruptive Stimuli	Ch. 5	
Week 8	Personality and Peer Pressure	Ch. 6	3
Week 9	Project Week		
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	4
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	5
Week 14	Project Week		
April 30	Final Paper Due by 11:59 pm		