

Syllabus (03152005)

Course Title: *January Interim: Wolves and other large Predators: A Northwoods Experience*

Number of Credits 4 semester credits – recommended by instructor

Semester Offered Spring (January) January 5-24, 2009

Instructor's Name Mike Link **Contact Phone:** 320-245-2648

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Catalog Description:

This course covers a broad range of topics related to wildlife. The focus will be the gray wolf, lynx and the white-tailed deer, and other MN predators, but all animals directly or indirectly associated with or affected by these predators or prey may be included. The course is field-oriented and includes opportunities for backcountry travel, wildlife observation and tracking, as well as an introduction to habitats, how wildlife respond to natural and artificial disturbance, and human factors. Additional topics include wildlife research techniques, data acquisition and analysis, as well as management practices.

Learning Outcomes. Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Describe animal adaptations to a winter environment.
2. Identify and describe various wolf behaviors.
3. Identify and describe wolf field sign.
4. Identify habitat types and individual woody browse plants important to ungulates in the Border lakes region.
5. Describe wildlife research techniques and their application.
6. Demonstrate the ability to use a map and compass for backcountry navigation.
7. Describe and demonstrate safe field techniques.
8. Identify and describe ecological factors related to lynx research.
9. Identify and describe lynx field sign.
10. Describe Minnesota predators and their habitat, prey, and lifestyle.

Student Assessment Methods:

Field Journal

Research Paper

Oral and written quizzes

Discussion of assigned readings

Instructor assessment of student participation and competency

Instructor assessment of practical skill demonstration and competency

Reflection Paper

Final exam

Outline of Major Course Content:

Wolf ecology

Lynx Ecology

Other MN predators

Predator -prey relationships

Predator and Endangered Species Issues and Management

Backcountry navigation
Wildlife habitats
Wildlife research techniques
Winter field techniques and safety

Attendance Policy:

Students must participate in all class activities unless prearranged with class instructor, in which case make-up assignments may be arranged.

Grading Policies and evaluation procedures:

Participation	55% of total grade
Final exam	15% of total grade
Reflection Paper	10% of total grade
Field Journal	10% of total grade
Research Paper	10% of total grade

Final Grade is based upon % of total points:

90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, Below 60% = F

Course Accommodations: If there is any student in this class who has special needs to learning disabilities or other kinds of disabilities, please discuss your special needs with the instructor.

Course Location: This class will be based out of the Audubon Center of the North Woods (Sandstone, MN) for the first 2 weeks, then will spend the last week based out of Ely, MN and a resort on the shores of Lake Superior near Lutsen, MN.

Academic Integrity Statement: Students are expected to abide by academic integrity standards in this class. Student unethical practices, such as cheating on examinations or misrepresenting authorship on class assignments will not be tolerated.