

WFS 340
Wetlands Ecology and Management
Fall 2010

Instructor: Dr. Matthew Gray (*mgray11@utk.edu*)
Phone: 974-2740 (office), 385-0772 (cell)
Office: 247 Ellington Plant Sciences Building
Website: <http://fwf.ag.utk.edu/mgray/wfs340/340home.htm>

Recommended Text: Wetlands, 2007, 4th edition (ISBN 978-0-471-69967-5) or
Wetlands, 2000, 3rd edition (ISBN 0-471-29232-X)

Authors: William J. Mitsch and James G. Gosselink

Course Goal: To expose students to the basic principles of wetland ecology and management via class lectures, labs, and field experiences.

- Course Topics:**
- What is a Wetland?–USACE Definition
 - Wetland Regulations
 - Wetland Classification via Cowardin et al. (1979)—USFWS Protocol
 - Wetland Plant, Waterfowl, Shorebird, and Amphibian ID
 - Wetland Losses and Human Impacts
 - Wetland Values
 - Wetland Management (agriculture, moist-soil, and green-tree reservoirs)
 - Waterfowl Carrying Capacity (duck energy-days, DED) Estimation
 - Wetland Conservation Programs

Required Materials: Field Clothes and Boots, Raingear, Camping Gear, Calculator, Laptop

Weights of Academic Assessments and Grading Scale:

The exam, lab practicum, DED assignment, and participation (field trip attendance) will be weighted as follows:

- Exam: 50% (**Monday, 22 November 2010** at 9:00 am)
- Lab Practicum: 30% (**Monday, 15 November 2010** at 8:30 am)
- DED Assignment: 10% (due **Monday, 22 November 2010** by 5:00 pm)
- Participation: 10% (see page 2)

Your course grade will be determined using the following straight¹ scale:

Grade	Final Weighted Percent		Grade	Final Weighted Percent
A	90–100%		C	70–76%
B+	87–89%		D	60–69%
B	80–86%		F	<60%
C+	77–79%			

¹Exam, practicum, and DED assignment will not be curved.

Attendance:

Attendance on the 3-day field trip to Noxubee Wildlife Refuge in Mississippi will count for 10% of your final grade. You must participate in all field trip activities to receive 10% (2% deduction for each missed activity). Attendance at lectures is not mandatory but strongly recommended.

Tentative Schedule: 8–15, 22 November (lecture, indoor labs, and tests)*
16–19 November (field trip to Mississippi)**

*Meeting time is 8:30–12:00 and 1:30–5:00 daily in 114 PSB (8, 11, and 12 Nov) and in 156/157 PBB (9, 10, 15, and 22 Nov).

**We will leave Knoxville by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, 16 November. The field trip will end at 5:00 p.m. on 19 November.

8–12 November:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday
Morning	Wetland Definition, Wetland Regulations	USFWS Wetland Classification	Wetland Management (agriculture & moist-soil management)	Capacity Estimation Lecture	Wetland Conservation Programs
Afternoon	Waterbird, Amphibian, and Wetland Plant ID	Human Impacts and Wetland Values	Wetland Management (green-tree reservoir management)	Capacity Estimation Assignment & Lab Exercise	OPEN Study for Practicum

15–19 November:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday
Morning	PRACTICUM (Classification & Waterbird, Amphibian, and Plant ID)	Leave for Noxubee (9:00 am)	Noxubee NWR (moist-soil units, GTRs, aquatic plant management)	Meet Drs. Rick Kaminski and Brian Davis MSU Presentations	Leave Noxubee NWR at 10:00 a.m. and return to Knoxville by 5:00 p.m.
Afternoon	OPEN Work on DED Assignment	Visit Briefly with Refuge Staff, Watch Video	Noxubee NWR (non-game management and research)	Meet Dr. Steve Demarais MSU Captive Wildlife Facility	

22–26 November:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday
Morning	LECTURE EXAM (9:00–11:00)	Thanksgiving Holiday!			
Afternoon	DED Assignment due by 5:00 p.m.				

Extra Credit:

You can positively influence your grade as much as **4.5%** by volunteering for extra credit. Your volunteer work however must be related to wetlands or wetland fauna (e.g., amphibians, waterbirds). For every **8 hours** of volunteer work, your final grade will be increased by **1.5%** up to 4.5% (24 hours total). All volunteering must be completed before **09 December 2010**. A volunteer form (see website) must be filled out by the supervising individual and submitted to Dr. Gray.

GENERAL POLICIES**Testing Policy:**

Make-up exams and practicums will **not** be given without a *bona fide* written and signed excuse from a vouching authority (e.g., physician, funeral announcement). The telephone number of the vouching individual must be provided with the written explanation. All tests are required.

Academic Misconduct: Group learning and studying is encouraged; however, academic misconduct on tests or assignments (including **copying Excel files** used in the duck energy-day assignment) will not be tolerated and result in immediate dismissal from and failure of the course. In the case of copying Excel files, the student that provided the Excel file also will receive an “F” in the course.

Learning Distractions: Please turn off pagers and cell phones prior to class and lab.

ADA Accommodation:

Any student who, because of a disability, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make such accommodations as may be necessary.

Religious Holy Day Observance:

A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence IF, not later than the FIFTEENTH day after the first day of the semester (i.e., 09/02/10), the student had notified the instructor of each scheduled class that the student would be absent for a religious holy day.