

WFS 340
Wetlands Ecology and Management
Fall 2015

Instructors: Matthew Gray (mgray11@utk.edu) and Chris Graves (cgraves2@utk.edu)
Phone: MG: 974-2740 (office), 385-0772 (cell); CG: 828-550-7909
Office: 247 Ellington PSB (MG), 275 Ellington PSB (CG)
Website: <http://fwf.ag.utk.edu/mgray/wfs340/340home.htm>

Required Readings: Handed out in class or emailed.

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?
- Wetland Regulations
- Wetland Classification via Cowardin et al. (1979)
- Wetland Waterbird, Amphibian, and Reptile ID
- Wetland Losses and Human Impacts
- Wetland Values (assigned as podcast)
- Wetland Restoration and Conservation Programs
- Wetland Management (agriculture, moist-soil, and green-tree reservoirs)
- Waterfowl Carrying Capacity (duck-energy days, DED) Estimation

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: 40% (**Friday, 20 November 2015** at 2:00 pm)
- Lab Practicum: 30% (**Friday, 13 November 2015** at 2:00 pm)
- DED Assignment: 10% (due **Friday, 4 December 2015** by 5:00 pm)
- Management Plan: 10% (due **Friday, 4 December 2015** 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 is required during all guest lectures (0.5% each x 4 = 2%) as well as the field trip to Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge in Mississippi (2% for each ½ day = 8%) for a total of 10% of your final grade. Attendance at other lectures is not mandatory but strongly recommended.

Tentative Schedule:

5–20 Nov, 4 Dec (lecture, labs, and tests)*

16–19 November (field trip to Mississippi)**

*Meeting time is 8:30–12:00 and 1:30–5:00 daily in 156/157 PBB unless indicated otherwise (see below).

**We will leave Knoxville at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, 16 November. The field trip will end at 5:00 p.m. on 19 November.

2–6 November:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday
Morning	Annual Meeting of SEAFWA (Asheville NC)			Wetland Definition	Reptile ID (8:30 – 11:00 am) <i>(B. Sutton, TSU)</i>
Afternoon				Wetland Classification & Waterbird ID	TAMP Workshop (12 – 4:00 pm) <i>160 PBB</i> <i>(B. English)</i>

9–13 November:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning	Wetland Management (moist-soil management & agriculture)	Capacity Estimation Lecture <i>(115 Ellington)</i>	Wetlands with Chris Graves & Wetland Values <i>(Podcast)</i>	Human Impacts on Wetlands & West TN Wetland Losses <i>(S. Oswald, USFS)</i>	OPEN (Study for Lab Practicum)
Afternoon	Wetland Management (above continued and GTRs)	Capacity Estimation Assignment & Lab Exercise <i>(115 Ellington)</i>		Waterfowl Regulations <i>(J. Benedict, TWRA)</i> & Wetlands with Chris Graves <i>(114 Ellington)</i>	LAB PRACTICUM (2:00–4:00) <i>(160 Plant Biotech)</i>

16–20 November:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning	Leave for Noxubee NWR (8:00 am)	Noxubee NWR (moist-soil units, GTRs, aquatic plant management)	Meet Dr. Brian Davis & MSU Team Duck Presentations	Leave Noxubee NWR at 9:00 a.m. and return to Knoxville by 5:00 p.m.	LECTURE EXAM (2:00–4:00 pm)
Afternoon	Visit Briefly with Refuge Staff, Watch Video	Noxubee NWR (non-game management and research)	MSU Entomology Museum & Free Time at Refuge		

Extra Credit:

You can positively influence your grade as much as **4.5%** by volunteering for extra credit. Your volunteer work must be related to wildlife ecology. 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 **04 December 2015**. 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 cell phones on silent 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., 09/04/15), the student had notified the instructor of each scheduled class that the student would be absent for a religious holy day.