

WFS 340
Wetlands Ecology and Management
Spring 2006

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Required Text: Wetlands, 2000, 3rd edition (ISBN 047129232X)
Authors: William J. Mitsch and James C. Gosselink

Course Goal: To expose students to the basic principles of wetland ecology and management via class lectures 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, Human Impacts, and Global Amphibian Declines
- West Tennessee Bottomland Sedimentation
- Wetland Values
- Wetland Management (agriculture, moist-soil, and green-tree reservoirs)
- Waterfowl Carrying Capacity (duck-use day) Estimation
- Wetland Impoundment Construction

Required Materials: Field Clothes and Boots, Raingear, Sleeping Bag, Calculator, Laptop

Weights of Academic Assessments and Grading Scale:

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

- Exam: 50% (**Tuesday, 14 March 2006** at 1:30 pm)
- Lab Practicum: 30% (**Wednesday, 8 March 2006** at 2:00 pm)
- DUD Assignment: 10% (due **Monday, 13 March 2006** 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 DUD assignment will not be curved.

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 by **28 April 2006**. A volunteer form (see website) must be filled out by the supervising individual.

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.

Tentative Schedule: 2–3, 6–8, 13–14 March (lecture, indoor labs and exercises)*
15–17 March (field trip to Mississippi)**

*Meeting time is 8:30–12:00 and 1:30–5:00 daily in 114 PSB.

**We will leave Knoxville at 9:00 a.m. (meet at 8:30 a.m.) on Wed, 15 March, and return around 3:00 p.m. on Friday, 17 March.

EXCEPTIONS: •**Monday and Wednesday mornings** we will meet in 157 PBB due to WFS 445 (Bird) Lab in 114 PSB.

27 February–3 March:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday
Morning			Tennessee TWS Meeting at Paris Landing State Park	Wetland Definition, Wetland Regulations	Waterbird, Amphibian, and Wetland Plant ID
Afternoon				Wetland Classification via Cowardin et al. (1979)	Amphibian Declines, Human Impacts

6–10 March:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday
Morning	Bottomland Sedimentation, Wetland Values	Carrying Capacity Estimation	Guest Lecturer OPEN (Study)	2006 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave at	
Afternoon	Wetland Management	(Finish up if necessary) OPEN (Study)	PRACTICUM (Classification & Waterbird, Amphibian, and Plant ID)	Fall Creek Falls State Park, Tennessee http://orgs.tntech.edu/tws/	

13–17 March:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday
Morning	Wetland Impoundment Construction	OPEN (Study)	Drive to Noxubee Wildlife Refuge	Meet Dr. Rick Kaminski, MSU Presentations	Drive back to Knoxville (7–8 hours)
Afternoon	Answer DUD Questions, Final Exam Review	EXAM (1:30–4:00)	Visit Briefly with Refuge Staff, Watch Video	Meet Noxubee Staff & Tour Refuge	

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-use day assignment) will not be tolerated and result in immediate dismissal from and failure of 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., 01/26/06), the student had notified the instructor of each scheduled class that the student would be absent for a religious holy day.