

WFS 340
Wetlands Ecology and Management
Spring 2008

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Recommended Text: Wetlands, 2007, 4th edition (ISBN 978-0-471-69967-5)
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 Impoundment Construction (time permitting)

Required Materials: Field Clothes and Boots, Raingear, Camping Gear, 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, 25 March 2008** at 7:30 am)
- Lab Practicum: 30% (**Thursday, 13 March 2008** at 7:30 am)
- DED Assignment: 10% (due **Friday, 28 March 2008** 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.

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 **25 April 2008**. A volunteer form (see website) must be filled out by the supervising individual, and submitted to Dr. Gray.

Attendance:

Attendance on the 3.5-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: 3, 10–13, 24–25 March (lecture, indoor labs and exercises)*
25–28 March (field trip to Mississippi)**

*Meeting time is 8:30–12:00 and 1:30–5:00 daily in 156/157 PBB.

**We will leave Knoxville at 10:00 a.m. on Tues, 25 March, and return by 8:00 p.m. on Friday, 28 March.

EXCEPTIONS: •**Monday (3 March):** 102 Brehm (morning)
114 Ellington (afternoon)

3–7 March:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday
Morning	Wetland Definition, Wetland Regulations			TN TWS Meeting Henry Horton State Park	
Afternoon	Waterbird, Amphibian, and Wetland Plant ID			TN TWS Meeting (Leave at 10:00 am)	Chapel Hill, TN (return by 5:00 pm on Friday)

10–14 March:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday
Morning	Wetland Classification via Cowardin et al. (1979)	Wetland Management (agriculture & moist-soil management)	Capacity Estimation Lecture	PRACTICUM (Classification & Waterbird, Amphibian, and Plant ID)	Southeastern Wildlife Conclave
Afternoon	Human Impacts and Wetland Values	Wetland Management (green-tree reservoir management)	Capacity Estimation Assignment & Lab Exercise		Southeastern Wildlife Conclave (Leave at 10:00 am)

24–28 March:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday
Morning	Wetland Impoundment Construction	EXAM (7:30–9:30) Leave for Noxubee (10:00 am)	Noxubee NWR (moist-soil units, GTRs, aquatic plant management)	Meet Dr. Steve Demarais, MSU Captive Wildlife Facility	SE Natural Resources Symposium
Afternoon	Answer DED Questions, Final Exam Review	Visit Briefly with Refuge Staff, Watch Video	Noxubee NWR (wood duck and RCW management, bat research)	SE Natural Resources Symposium	Drive back to Knoxville (7–8 hours)

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.

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., 01/24/08), the student had notified the instructor of each scheduled class that the student would be absent for a religious holy day.