

WFS 340
Wetlands Ecology and Management
Spring 2009

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>

Graduate Assistants: Melissa Foster (*mfoste24@utk.edu*, 201 Ellington PSB, 974-3897)
Drew Wirwa (*dwirwa@utk.edu*, 201 Ellington PSB, 974-3897)

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
- Student Selected Topic (e.g., wetland impoundment construction, avian influenza, amphibian declines, wetland hydrology)

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, 23 March 2009** at 7:30 am)
- Lab Practicum: 30% (**Friday, 13 March 2009** at 8:30 am)
- DED Assignment: 10% (due **Monday, 30 March 2009** by 1:00 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 before **28 April 2009**. A volunteer form (see website) must be filled out by the supervising individual, and submitted to Dr. Gray.

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 highly recommended.

Tentative Schedule: 6, 9–13, 23 March (lecture, indoor labs, and tests)*
23–26 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 Monday, 23 March.

The field trip will end at 10:00 am on 26 March. You will have the choice to return to Knoxville or go to the SE Student Conclave.

You must notify Dr. Gray by 6 March at 5:00 p.m. of your choice.

EXCEPTION: •**Monday (9 March):** Hollingsworth Auditorium (all day)

2–6 March:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday
Morning			Annual Meeting of the Tennessee Chapter of The Wildlife Society Fall Creek Falls State Park Pikeville, TN		Wetland Definition, Wetland Regulations
Afternoon					Waterbird, Amphibian, and Wetland Plant ID

9–13 March:

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

16–19 March: Spring Break

23–27 March:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday
Morning	EXAM (7:30–9:30) Leave for Noxubee (10:00 am)	Noxubee NWR (moist-soil units, GTRs, aquatic plant management)	Meet Dr. Rick Kaminski, MSU Presentations	Southeastern Wildlife Conclave Co-hosted by University of Arkansas - Monticello and Arkansas Tech University (Leave Noxubee NWR at 10:00 am on Thursday, Leave Arkansas by 8:00 am on Sunday)	
Afternoon	Visit Briefly with Refuge Staff, Watch Video	Noxubee NWR (wood duck and RCW management, bat research)	Meet Dr. Steve Demarais, MSU Captive Wildlife Facility		

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 will receive an “F” in the course also.

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., 01/23/09), the student had notified the instructor of each scheduled class that the student would be absent for a religious holy day.