BIOL 3970/5970 - Wildlife Diseases
CRN 21215 (3970) and 22738 (5970)
Spring Semester, 2011
Instructor - Dr. J. Mitchell Lockhart
Office – Biology/Chemistry Building, Room 2029
Phone: 333-5767 / 333-5759
Email: jmlockha@valdosta.edu
Office Hours: As posted or by appointment
Course hours: Lecture – 11:00 – 12:15 BC 2022
Textbook – *Field Manual of Wildlife Diseases in the Southeastern United States, Third Edition*, William R. Davidson (**required**), *Field Manual of Wildlife Disease General Field Procedures and Diseases of Birds*, National Wildlife Health Center (**required** – free online at http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/publications/field_manual/). Various other readings will be provided.
Other resources:
Journal of Wildlife Diseases – www.jwildlifedislorg/archive/
Wildlife Disease Information Node – http://wildlifedisease.nbii.gov/
Manual of Common Diseases and Parasites of Wildlife in Northern British Columbia
http://www.unbc.ca/nlui/wildlife_diseases_bc/
Other resources will be placed on the course homepage:
http://www.valdosta.edu/biology/jmlockha/WildlifeDiseasesHomepage.shtml
Course Description: This course will provide an introduction to the field of wildlife disease biology. Topics examined will include specific avian, mammalian, fish, reptile, and amphibian diseases as well as methods to survey for, recognize, and diagnose diseases. Information concerning biosafety, biosecurity, proper permitting, and working with the public will be presented.
Prerequisites: BIOL 1100, BIOL 1107, BIOL 1108, BIOL 3200, BIOL 3250 or permission of instructor
Attendance: **MANDATORY**! I do keep track of who is and isn't attending lecture and laboratory. Any student disrupting the classroom and affecting the learning experience of others will be asked to leave. Along these lines, **NO** cell-phones, beepers, and/or associated earpieces are allowed either in the lecture room or laboratory. My policy is not to give a warning, rather, if a cell-phone or beeper activates during lecture/laboratory, you will lose one **LETTER GRADE** from your final grade. Viewing a cell-phone or pager that activates on "silent" mode during a quiz or exam will be treated as an instance of **CHEATING** and handled accordingly (in addition to the above penalty). Those wishing to utilize laptop computers as part of the class are required to sit in the first 3 rows of the classroom. University guidelines dictate that students missing 20% of lecture sessions for this class are subject to receiving a grade of "F" regardless of their standing in the course.
Students With Documented Disabilities: Students requiring accommodations or modifications because of documented disabilities should discuss this need with Dr. Lockhart at the beginning of the semester. Students not registered with the Special Services Program must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities. Their phone number is 245-2498.
Assessment: Undergraduate Graduate
Assignments

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Specific requirement differences for graduate students: Graduate students in this course are expected to be leaders and set an example in **punctuality**, **attendance** and effort for others to follow. Graduate students will have at least one additional assignment and will be required to take a comprehensive oral final exam at the end of the semester.

Privacy Act: Because of the Buckley Amendment or Privacy Act, grades will not be discussed over the phone, via email, given to friends, or given to relatives. Final grades will be posted, only at your request, under an anonymous 6 digit number which you choose later in the semester.

Cheating: Refer to the Student Code of Ethics in the Valdosta State University Student Handbook. A student caught cheating will be penalized ranging from receiving a zero for that assignment or test to failing the class.

Important Dates: Midterm – March 3, Final Exam – Thursday, May 5, 10:15am – 12:15pm

- The Professor reserves the right to modify the above contents with proper notification.

Tentative Lecture Outline:

Introduction

Mink
    Mink Virus Enteritis, Dioctophyme
River Otter
    CDV, Salmonellosis, Subcutaneous worm
Muskrat
    Tularemia, Tyzzer's Disease
Beaver
    Tularemia, *Giardia*
Cottontail Rabbit
    Shope's Fibroma, Tularemia, Staphylococcosis, Tapeworm, Ascarid, Warbles
Gray Squirrel
    Squirrel Fibroma, Warbles, Miscellaneous Skin Conditions - Congenital Alopecia, Dermatophytoses, Notedric Mange, Louse
Woodchuck
    Woodchuck Hepatitis

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Course Outcomes/Assessments

1. To understand the diversity of wildlife diseases.
2. To understand epidemiological, ecological, and social factors that underlie the emergence and spread of selected wildlife diseases.
3. To learn potential strategies for surveillance and management of wildlife health.

Assessments for this course will include reading of scientific literature, written exams, various assignments, and classroom literature presentations.

General Education Outcomes/Assessments

This course will help students achieve four of the general education outcomes for Valdosta State University:

3. Students will use computer and information technology when appropriate. They will demonstrate knowledge of computer concepts and terminology. They will possess basic working knowledge of a computer operating system. They will be able to use at least two software tools, such as word processors, spreadsheets, database management systems, or statistical packages. They will be able to find information using computer searching tools.

4. Students will express themselves clearly, logically. and precisely in writing and in speaking, and they will demonstrate competence in reading and listening. They will display the ability to write coherently in standard English; to speak well; to read, to understand, and to interpret the content of written materials in various disciplines; and to listen effectively and to understand different modes of communication.

5. Students will demonstrate knowledge of scientific and mathematical principles and proficiency in laboratory practices. They will understand the basic concepts and principles underlying scientific methodology and be able to collect, analyze, and interpret data. They will learn a body of scientific knowledge and be able to judge the merits of arguments about scientific issues. They will be able to perform basic algebraic manipulations and to use fundamental algebraic concepts to solve word problems and equations. They will be able to use basic knowledge of statistics to interpret and to analyze data. They will be able to evaluate arguments based on quantitative data.

7. Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze, to evaluate, and to make inferences from oral, written and visual materials. They will be skilled in inquiry, logical reasoning, and critical analysis. They will be able to acquire and evaluate relevant information, analyze arguments, synthesize facts and information, and offer logical arguments leading to creative solutions to problems.