NOTE to prospective students: This syllabus is intended to provide students who are considering taking this course an idea of what they will be learning. A more detailed syllabus will be available on the course Blackboard site for enrolled students and may be more current than this sample syllabus.

Course Name: Vertebrate Population Dynamics
Course Number: FW 540
Credits: 4
Instructor name: Jennifer Gervais
Instructor email: Jennifer.gervais@oregonstate.edu
Instructor phone: 541-757-9041
Link to instructor bio or website:
Teaching Assistant name and contact info:

Course Description
Concepts in population ecology and quantitative approaches to managing wildlife populations; methods of parameter estimation, model structure, assumptions, and analysis, applications to common management issues.

Communication
Please post all course-related questions in the General Discussion Forum so that the whole class may benefit from our conversation. Please email your instructor for matters of a personal nature. The instructor will reply to course-related questions and email within 24-48 hours.

Technical Assistance
If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, assistance logging into the course, or if you experience any errors or problems while in your online course, contact the OSU Help Desk for assistance. You can call (541) 737-3474, email osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu or visit the OSU Computer Helpdesk online.

Learning Resources

Additional readings will include book chapters which will be provided, and peer-reviewed literature accessed through the Oregon State University library. These are referred to in the Course Content section by author and year.

Additional Readings:


Note to prospective students: Please check with the OSU Bookstore for up-to-date information for the term you enroll (http://osubookstore.com/ or 800-595-0357). If you purchase course materials from other sources, be very careful to obtain the correct ISBN.

Blackboard
This course will be delivered via Blackboard where you will interact with your classmates and with your instructor. Within the course Blackboard site you will access the learning materials, such as the syllabus, class discussions, assignments, projects, and quizzes. To preview how an online course works, visit the Ecampus Course Demo. For technical assistance, please visit Ecampus Technical Help.

Measurable Student Learning Outcomes
Students will describe the basic theories and associated models of population dynamics, including exponential/geometric growth, population regulation, predator-prey interactions, epidemiology, competition, and metapopulation dynamics.

Students will summarize basic concepts in population dynamics.

Students will explore concepts in population dynamics using simple mathematical models.

Students will describe the inherent trade-offs inherent in any modeling exercise.

Students will explain the uses and limitations of both foundational concepts and the basic models applied to problems in conservation and management.

Students will assess the implications of model choice, parameter estimation and bias on model outcomes and subsequent uncertainty for decision-making.

Students will evaluate the usefulness of concepts in framing questions in conservation and management.

Evaluation of Student Performance
- Discussions – 250 points
- Quizzes – 250 points
- Labs – 300 points
- Final - 200
- Total – 1000 points

Course Content

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**Course Policies**

**Discussion Participation**
Students are expected to participate in all graded discussions. While there is great flexibility in online courses, this is not a self-paced course. You will need to participate in our discussions on at least two different days each week, with your first post due no later than Wednesday evening, and your second and third posts due by the end of each week.

**Makeup Exams**
Makeup exams will be given only for missed exams excused in advance by the instructor. Excused
absences will not be given for airline reservations, routine illness (colds, flu, stomach aches), or other common ailments. Excused absences will generally not be given after the absence has occurred, except under very unusual circumstances.

**Exam Time Limits**
Exams in this class are timed; if you exceed the time limit on an exam, you will be assessed a penalty of 10% for every five minute interval beyond the time limit.

**Incompletes**
Incomplete (I) grades will be granted only in emergency cases (usually only for a death in the family, major illness or injury, or birth of your child), and if the student has turned in 80% of the points possible. If you are having any difficulty that might prevent you completing the coursework, please don’t wait until the end of the term; let me know right away.

**Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities**
Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and [Disability Access Services (DAS)](https://ecampus.oregonstate.edu) with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098.

**Expectations for Student Conduct**
Student conduct is governed by the university’s policies, as explained in the [Office of Student Conduct: Information and Regulations](https://ecampus.oregonstate.edu). 

**Academic Integrity**
Students are expected to comply with all regulations pertaining to academic honesty, defined as: An intentional act of deception in which a student seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another person or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic work. For further information, visit [Avoiding Academic Dishonesty](https://ecampus.oregonstate.edu), or contact the office of Student Conduct and Mediation at 541-737-3656.

**Conduct in this Online Classroom**
Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g., on discussion boards, email postings) in compliance with the [university's regulations regarding civility](https://ecampus.oregonstate.edu).

**Tutoring**
[NetTutor](https://ecampus.oregonstate.edu) is a leading provider of online tutoring and learner support services fully staffed by experienced, trained and monitored tutors. Students connect to live tutors from any computer that has Internet access. NetTutor provides a virtual whiteboard that allows tutors and students to work on problems in a real time environment. They also have an online writing lab where tutors critique and return essays within 24 to 48 hours. Access NetTutor from within your Blackboard class by clicking on the Tools button in your course menu.

**OSU Student Evaluation of Teaching**
Course evaluation results are extremely important and are used to help me improve this course and the learning experience of future students. Results from the 19 multiple choice questions are tabulated anonymously and go directly to instructors and department heads. Student comments on the open-ended questions are compiled and confidentially forwarded to each instructor, per OSU procedures. The online Student Evaluation of Teaching form will be available toward the end of each term, and you will be sent instructions through ONID. You will login to “Student Online Services” to respond to the online questionnaire. The results on the form are anonymous and are not tabulated until after grades are posted.