

**Course Syllabus**  
**WL 712 Wetland Ecology and Management -- 3 cr.**  
**Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences**  
**South Dakota State University**  
**Fall 2009**

Lecture: Tuesday & Thursday 11:00-11:50, SNP 022

Lab: Monday 12:00-2:50, SNP 181

Instructor: Dan Hubbard, SNP 139c  
Phone: 688-4780  
Email: [daniel.hubbard@sdstate.edu](mailto:daniel.hubbard@sdstate.edu)  
Office hours: by appointment

Course Goals: It is a goal of this course to provide the student with an understanding of the physical, chemical, and biological processes that occur within, around, and among wetlands, and how these processes relate to the management of wetland systems for wildlife and other wetland functions. Students will also become familiar with the diversity of wetland systems in nature. A second goal is for the student to become proficient in the classification of wetlands for inventory and jurisdictional purposes. In the process of completing the course assignments, the student will become familiar with the rather eclectic literature of wetland science and management. Another goal of this course to produce a student that will be able to appreciate and read the variability of structure and function in wetland systems and to then interpret that information and apply it to the study or management of them.

Course Requirements:

Text: Mitsch, W.J., and J.G. Gosselink. 2007. Wetlands. Fourth Edition. John Wiley and Sons, Inc. Hoboken, NJ. ISBN 978-0-471-69967-5

AND...Other readings as assigned.

Grading (assessment):

	<u>Points</u>
Exam I	100
Exam II	100
Term paper	200
Presentation	100
Other assignments (?)	??
Total at least	500

Grades will be assigned based on the following percentages of points earned:

≥ 90% = A  
80 - 89% = B  
70 - 79% = C

60 - 69% = D  
≤ 59% = F

The grading of an individual piece of work (e.g., a test) may be curved if the class average is too low and then scores adjusted to fit the straight scale. The instructor reserves the right to make this judgment. The instructor will not raise the scale. Exams will be essay-type and may be “in-class” or “take-home” and the instructor will give the class a one-week notice prior to the exam regarding which kind a given exam will be. Make-up exams will be allowed, but only with approval prior to the scheduled exam to be made up. Make-up exams may be different than the regularly scheduled version.

Attendance Policy: I do not require attendance. However, if you don't come to class, you won't do well!

Term Papers: Each student will write a term paper. You may choose a wetland type or wetland system (e.g., southern bottomlands, mangrove swamps, Atlantic cedar swamps, boreal peatlands, Gulf coast salt marshes, etc.), or a function (e.g., nutrient biogeochemistry, floodwater abatement, ecology of a species or community interactions) or a management topic (e.g., influence of water level fluctuations/hydroperiod on bird use, creation of wetlands from scratch, use of the hydrogeomorphic approach to assessment, etc.). A separate handout will describe this more fully (format, style, etc.). You must have your paper topic approved by the instructor by **September 29**. The paper is due on **November 23**.

Presentation: During the last part of the semester, each student will make a presentation to the class on a wetland topic that is different than your term paper topic. For this assignment, you will need to find several papers on the topic, prepare a bibliography for distribution to the class, and deliver a lecture/seminar on that topic. I will give you more detail on this in another handout.

Lab: For the first few weeks, labs will meet from noon to 5 or 6:00. They will consist of field trips to local wetlands. After that, labs will meet during the regular scheduled time and will essentially be extended lecture periods. For the trips, waterproof footwear would be desirable – mid-calf are fine, hip boots even better (chest waders are not needed).

Academic Freedom and Responsibility: Under Board of Regents and University policy student academic performance may be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards. Students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled. Student who believe that an academic evaluation reflects prejudiced or capricious consideration of student opinions or conduct unrelated to academic standards should first contact the instructor of the course to initiate a review of the evaluation. If the student remains unsatisfied, the student may contact the department head and/ or dean of the college which offers the

class to initiate a review of the evaluation.

Students with Disabilities: If you are a student with a disability and need special accommodations in order to participate in this class, please inform the instructor and make appropriate arrangements with the Office of Disability Services (145 Binnewies Hall, 688-4504 or 688-4032 TTD).

Academic Dishonesty: The Department policy on cheating/plagiarism is as follows:

**Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences**  
**Academic Dishonesty Policy**  
**(Revised Nov. 2000)**

The Department and the University have taken a strong and clear stand regarding academic dishonesty. We believe that it is unethical and unprofessional to present work done by others in a manner indicating that the student/s is/are presenting material as his/her original ideas or work; such activity is academic dishonesty. Plagiarizing or knowingly assisting others in plagiarizing on tests, quizzes, problems, assignments, research papers, theses, dissertations, or other academic activities is unacceptable behavior. All academic work completed by students is expected to be the original work of that individual student, unless permission is specifically granted beforehand by the faculty member for some form of team effort or other format. If students are unsure if a particular activity may be regarded as a form of academic dishonesty they should consult the faculty member before undertaking such an activity.

The University has a policy on academic honesty, procedures for academic grade and dishonesty appeals, and sanctions for such activities (see Student Code). The Student Code has **different** procedures for undergraduate and graduate students.

The Department policy described in this handout is intended to attempt to address perceived academic dishonesty violations between the faculty member/s and student/s **before** Student Code procedures are implemented. This is done because under Student Code procedures the **minimum** penalty for academic dishonesty is Disciplinary Probation. These added Department steps (Steps 1, 2, and 3 of the Undergraduate Student and Graduate Student Procedures) should not be construed as an attempt to circumvent the Student Code system; both students and/or the faculty member have the option to go directly into that system. The Department procedures portion of this policy are only available to a student one time; any second perceived offense will immediately follow the Student Code procedures.

Undergraduate Student Procedure

1. When a student/s is/are determined to have broken the Academic Dishonesty Policy, he/she will be notified **verbally** by the faculty member involved as to the problem and sanction selected. This is similar to procedures 02:02:01:03 and 02:02:01:04 in the Student Code. The faculty member will do this immediately after the perceived violation occurs. Sanction options available to the faculty member are as follows:
  - a. provide the student/s a grade of zero or some other score on the test, quiz, problem, assignment, or other academic endeavor involved;
  - b. provide the student/s a grade of "F" in the course;
  - c. request that the student/s withdraw from the course;
  - d. request that the student/s change the grading for the course to an "audit"; or
  - e. immediately refer the case to the Student Code procedures.

The sanction selected is at the discretion of the faculty member, based on the seriousness of the situation.

2. If the student/s agrees to the sanction proposed by the faculty member the process is completed.
3. If the student/s does not agree to the sanction proposed by the faculty member, he/she has the right to appeal the faculty member's decision. This **Informal Phase Appeal** should be made directly **(both verbally and in writing)** to the faculty member involved within 5 class days of notification or within 7 calendar days of notification, if the incident is at the end of the semester. The faculty member may then modify or leave unchanged the sanction proposed in step 1. A copy of the student's **written appeal** and the faculty member's **written response** will be sent to the Department Head so that a confidential record to protect the student/s and the faculty member is established. The student/s written appeal and faculty member written response will be secured in the student's file until graduation or he/she leaves the program; if no further perceived violations have occurred these materials will be purged from the student's file.
4. If the student/s is/are still dissatisfied with the decision he/she can appeal to the Department Head. This **Informal Phase Appeal** should be made **verbally**. The Department Head will utilize this verbal appeal and the written student appeal and faculty written response described in step 3 to reach a decision. (These are steps 02:02:01:05, 02:02:01:06, and 02:02:01:07 in the **Informal Phase Appeal** process described in the Student Code).
5. If the student/s and faculty member agree with the Department Head's decision, the process is completed. Up to this point, no one other than the student/s, faculty member, and Department Head has been made aware of the situation.
6. If the student/s or faculty member is/are dissatisfied with the Department Head's decision they can enter the **Formal Phase** of the Student Code process (Student Code 02:02:02). It is the responsibility of the faculty member and student/s to be aware of the procedures and penalties involved.

#### Graduate Student Procedure

1. Same as Undergraduate Student Procedure step 1, except that the student's advisor and/or Advisory Committee **may** be involved (see Student Code 02:05:01:02, 02:05:01:03, and 02:05:01:04).<sup>1</sup>
2. Same as Undergraduate Student Procedure step 2, except that the student's advisor and/or Advisory Committee **may** be involved (see Student Code 02:05:01:02, 02:05:01:03, and 02:05:01:04).
3. Same as Undergraduate Student Procedure step 3, except that the student's advisor and/or Advisory Committee **may** be involved (see Student Code 02:05:01:02, 02:05:01:03, and 02:05:01:04).
4. If the student/s is/are still dissatisfied with the decision he/she can **verbally** appeal to the Graduate Dean. (These are steps 02:05:01:05, 02:05:01:06, and 02:05:01:07 in the **Informal Phase Appeal** process described in the Student Code.)
5. If all agree on the proposed sanction at this point, the process is completed. Up to this point, no one other than the student/s, faculty member, Graduate Dean, and possibly the student's advisor and Advisory Committee has been made aware of the situation.

6. If the student/s, faculty member, advisor, or Advisory Committee are dissatisfied with the Graduate Dean's decision they can enter the **Formal Phase** (Student Code 02:05:02) of the Student Code process. It is the responsibility of the student/s, faculty member, and student's advisor and Advisory Committee to be aware of the procedures and penalties involved.

<sup>1</sup>The student's advisor and/or Advisory Committee **may** be included because items other than class work could be involved.