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 site for enrolled students and may be more current than this sample syllabus. Summer term courses may be accelerated – please check the Ecampus Schedule of Classes for more information.

FW 427 / 527
PRINCIPLES OF WILDLIFE DISEASES (4)

COURSE CREDIT:
(4) This course combines approximately 120 hours of instruction, online activities, and assignments for 4 credits.

PREREQUISITES, CO-REQUISITES AND ENFORCED PREREQUISITES:
Junior standing or instructor approval required.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Ecological aspects of important diseases affecting North American wildlife will be discussed. Demonstrations will mainly cover migratory birds, carnivores and ruminants. Lec/lab. Ecampus sections do not use lab demonstrations.

This course is designed to highlight and describe many of the most current wildlife health issues found in North American wildlife today. Course emphasis is on infectious and parasitic agents of mammals and birds and will include lecture topics on diseases caused by viruses, bacteria, parasites, prions, and environmental conditions. Aspects of biology, clinical signs, epidemiology, strategies in controlling diseases, and human dimensions of wildlife diseases are covered. Population health issues between wildlife, livestock, and humans are discussed.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Jack Mortenson, DVM, MS
Phone- 503-560-9740 (currently inactive due to me being out-of-country)
email: jack.mortenson@oregonstate.edu

Sample syllabi may not have the most up-to-date information. For accuracy, please check the ECampus Schedule of Classes to see the most current instructor information. You can search for contact information by name from the OSU Home Page.
LEARNING RESOURCES:

Text (not required to purchase): Essentials of Disease in Wild Animals, Gary A. Wobeser, Blackwell Publishing, Ames, Iowa, 243pp,

NOTE: For textbook accuracy, please always check the textbook list at the OSU Bookstore website. Sample syllabi may not have the most up-to-date information.

Students can also click the ‘OSU Beaver Store’ link associated with the course information in the Ecampus schedule of classes for course textbook information and ordering.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. To be able to discuss basic concepts of disease transmission, etiology and clinical signs.

2. Be able to describe the common diseases affecting North American wildlife based on population impacts and human dimension aspects.

3. Learn and be able to demonstrate techniques of basic necropsy review for collecting field samples.

4. To comprehend and understand the disease relationships between wildlife, livestock and humans.

5. Understand how wildlife diseases are an integral part of wildlife management.

6. To be able to discuss applied strategies in controlling population diseases.

COURSE CONTENT AND POLICIES:

Exams
Exams do not require a proctor and cover lectures, readings and Blackboard discussions. See the course calendar for exam dates. The final exam will be comprehensive and must be completed within the allotted time period. (1 hour for midterm, 1 1/2 hours for final exam)

Discussion Forum Responsibilities: Your participation score for the Discussion Forums is based on your weekly effort to contribute in a substantial way to the questions and discussions of the weekly diseases and parasites. These student-to-student and student-to-instructor discussions serve as a substitute for classroom participation and allow us to explore additional aspects of wildlife health.

Please don’t post a large number of messages during the last week(s) of the quarter along the various weeks discussions; it won’t add up to a higher grade.
If you are an active participant, expect to score the majority of the points given, however, I do assign these points subjectively and for those extremely active participants I reserve the full points given.

The real motivation here is we are creating a way for students to talk with each other about the concepts and questions that are posed and thought about during the quarter. I urge you all to be active participants in questioning each other and offering up opinions on other people's ideas for wildlife disease management.

You should post several times weekly and there is no defined cutoff (ie - Sunday night at 12:00AM) and you can post on subjects from the previous week. However, please do not post on stale topics just to try and get your post numbers up higher. This does not contribute to the concept of a shared conversation on the topics.

**Communication and Contact:** I generally respond to all emails to me within 24 hours for this course. On the weekends and with some internet connectivity problems overseas, it might be a bit longer than 24 hours. I ask that you be patient with me. However, if you have not received a reply within 48 hours of your email, please check with me again, it is possible I overlooked your communication.

**Suggested References:**


Graduate Students:
Additional Requirements for Graduate Students: Each graduate student will be expected to write a background paper on a wildlife disease topic agreed upon by the instructor and student. Email me for help on ideas or what you would like to background within the first 2 weeks of class. I would prefer subjects that are not specifically covered in class already. The paper shall be a minimum of 3-5 double spaced, 1" margins, typed pages containing the history, science, human dimension, and management implications of the topic. Grading of the paper will be a maximum number of points of 100 and will be judged on content, form, and relevancy to the course subject. Please use any common wildlife journal format (for example: Journal of Wildlife Diseases) and reference your sources.

Your paper will be due at the time you take your final for the class. Please submit your work via email to me.

Course Themes:
Week One:
Introduction/basic concepts in wildlife health
- Required Reading:
- Selected Canvas Postings:
  Introduce yourselves

Week Two:
Brucellosis – historical background cattle/elk/bison/Yellowstone National Park
Tuberculosis – White-tailed deer in Michigan
Johne’s disease – an emerging health issue?
- Required Reading:
- Selected Canvas Postings:
- Assignment - background paper for graduate students

Week Three:
Deer Hair-Loss Syndrome- Pacific Northwest deer epidemic
Rabies – North America and Europe examples
Lyme disease
- Required Reading:
- Selected Canvas Postings

Week Four:
Pneumonia in Bighorn Sheep – multi-factorial causes
Chronic Wasting Disease – farmed and wild deer/elk
Plague – rodent reservoirs
- Required Reading/Video:
- Selected Canvas Postings:
  Discuss midterm
Week Five:
Midterm – (on Canvas)
Bluetongue/END complex – controlling deer populations in SE United States
Deer Adenovirus – an emerging disease or just newly recognized?

• Required Reading:
• Selected Canvas Postings:

Week Six:
Meningeal worms and North American cervids
Foreign animal diseases and wildlife reservoirs
Marine mammals- red tides

• Required Reading:
• Selected Canvas Postings:

Week Seven:
Hantavirus
Avian cholera
Avian botulism

• Required Reading/Video:
• Selected Canvas Postings:

Week Eight:
Lead poisoning
West Nile virus
Necropsy techniques

• Required Reading/Video:
• Selected Canvas Postings:

Week Nine:
Avian Influenza
Pox Virus
Avian Vacuolar Myelinopathy
Sarcocystis

• Required Reading/Video:
• Selected Canvas Postings:
• Background paper due for graduate students

Week Ten:
GIS technologies used in wildlife epidemiology – spatial analysis
Sampling Strategies – wildlife disease surveillance
• Required Reading:
Evaluation of Student Performance

**Discussion Participation:** 100 points (Based on weekly Canvas topics)

**Mid-term Exam:** 150 points Format- short answer/multiple choice

**Final Exam:** 275 points Format- short answer/multiple choice

**Course Grading:** Percentage of total points- (only whole letter grades assigned)

- A - 90 and above
- B - 80 to 89
- C - 70 to 79
- D - 50 to 59
- F - below 50

**Exams**
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**Course site login information**
Information on how to login to your course site can be found [HERE](#).
Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities

Oregon State University is committed to student success; however, we do not require students to use accommodations nor will we provide them unless they are requested by the student. The student, as a legal adult, is responsible to request appropriate accommodations. The student must take the lead in applying to Disability Access Services (DAS) and submit requests for accommodations each term through DAS Online. OSU students apply to DAS and request accommodations at our Getting Started with DAS page.

Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Disability Access Services (DAS). Students 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.

Additionally, Canvas, the learning management system through which this course is offered, provides a vendor statement certifying how the platform is accessible to students with disabilities.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct (OSU policy)

Students are expected to be honest and ethical in their academic work. Intentional acts of academic dishonesty such as cheating or plagiarism may be penalized by imposing an “F” grade in the course.

Student conduct is governed by the universities policies, as explained in the Office of the Dean of Student Life: Student Conduct and Community Standards. In an academic community, students and faculty, and staff each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment, whether online or in the classroom. Students, faculty, and staff have the responsibility to treat each other with understanding, dignity, and respect.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g. on discussion boards, email postings, etc.) in compliance with the university’s regulations regarding civility. Students will be expected to treat all others with the same respect as they would want afforded to themselves. Disrespectful behavior (such as harassing behavior, personal insults, inappropriate language) or disruptive behaviors are unacceptable and can result in sanctions as defined by Student Conduct and Community Standards.

For more info on these topics please see:

Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct
Student Conduct and Community Standards - Offenses
Policy On Disruptive Behavior
Plagiarism
You are expected to submit your own work in all your assignments, postings to the discussion board, and other communications, and to clearly give credit to the work of others when you use it. Academic dishonesty will result in a grade of “F.”

Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct
Avoiding Academic Dishonesty

Turnitin Plagiarism Prevention
Your instructor may ask you to submit one or more of your writings to Turnitin, a plagiarism prevention service. Your assignment content will be checked for potential plagiarism against Internet sources, academic journal articles, and the papers of other OSU students, for common or borrowed content. Turnitin generates a report that highlights any potentially unoriginal text in your paper. The report may be submitted directly to your instructor or your instructor may elect to have you submit initial drafts through Turnitin and you will receive the report allowing you the opportunity to make adjustments and ensure that all source material has been properly cited.

Papers you submit through Turnitin for this or any class will be added to the OSU Turnitin database and may be checked against other OSU paper submissions. You will retain all rights to your written work. For further information on Turnitin please click HERE.

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.

COURSE DEMO
GETTING STARTED

Tutoring
For information about possible tutoring for this course, please visit our Ecampus NetTutor page. Other resources include:

Writing Center
Online Writing Lab

Student Evaluation of Teaching
The online Student Evaluation of Teaching form will be available in week 9 and close at the end of finals week. Students will be sent instructions via ONID by the Office of Academic Programs, Assessment, and Accreditation. Students will log in 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. Course evaluation results are very important and are used to help improve courses and the learning experience of future students. Results from questions are tabulated anonymously and go directly to instructors and unit heads/supervisors. Unless a comment is “signed,” which will associate a name with a comment, student comments on the open-ended questions are anonymous and forwarded to each instructor. “Signed” comments are forwarded to the unit head/supervisor.

Refund Policy information
Please see the Ecampus website for policy information on refunds and late fees.