

SAULT COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS & TECHNOLOGY  
SAULT STE MARIE, ON



COURSE OUTLINE

Course Title: INTRODUCTION TO FISH & WILDLIFE

Code No.: NRT 110                      Semester: I

Program: FISH & WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN

Author: VALERIE WALKER

Date: JULY 2001      Previous Outline Dated: JUNE 2000

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
  Dean, Natural Resources                      Date  
  Programs

Total Credits: 3                      Prerequisite(s): None  
Length of Course: 3 hrs/week      Total Credit Hours: 48

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*For additional information, please contact Joe Fruchter, Dean, Natural Resources Programs, (705) 759-2554, Ext. 688.*

**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This practical course will introduce the student to field procedures to assess wildlife habitat and relative abundance of animal populations. Field data will be recorded, analyzed and summarized in report format. Collection techniques for terrestrial insect specimens will be practiced, including preparation, mounting and display. In addition employment opportunities will be discussed and several guest speakers and tours will address specific opportunities in the Fish and Wildlife field.

**II. LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF THE PERFORMANCE:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will demonstrate the ability to:

**1. Conduct field surveys to assess habitat and relative abundance of wildlife populations**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- execute field procedures as instructed
- assess local Canada goose population numbers using a droppings survey
- determine stream discharge using floatation method, current meter and computer software
- assess chemical parameters of stream water
- correctly calibrate and operate field equipment (compass, chain, current meter, HACH kit, Eckman dredge, surberer sampler)
- construct an appropriate bird feeder for the College woodlot and monitor local bird feeding activity
- identify local woodlot bird species by sight and vocalizations
- observe and record bird species of Sault Ste. Marie using the Sault Naturalists Checklist
- participate in the annual Deer Check Station on St. Joseph's Island during the fall hunt

*This learning outcome will constitute approximately 10% of the course's grade*

**2. Collect various plant and animal specimens for identification, interpretation and presentation**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- correctly use nets, traps and various collection techniques for both aquatic invertebrates and terrestrial insects
- properly kill, pin and label 25 terrestrial insect species for invertebrate collection
- recognize common terrestrial insect and aquatic invertebrate orders given key characteristics
- demonstrate effective use of a bifurcated (dichotomous) key for identification
- develop and present to local elementary schools an interpretive demonstration for an indigenous plant or animal species

*This learning outcome will constitute approximately 40% of the course's grade*

**3. Record, analyse and present field data**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- complete field forms neatly and accurately
- present data in organized tables, graphs and figures
- use appropriate software to analyse and interpret data
- summarize objectives, methodologies, results and discussion of results in an organized technical report format
- effectively use reference material and present in standardized format

*This learning outcome will constitute approximately 40% of the course's grade*

**4. Evaluate career opportunities in Fish & Wildlife**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- summarize government and private opportunities for careers in Fish and Wildlife
- examine entrepreneurial opportunities in Fish and Wildlife

*This learning outcome will constitute approximately 10% of the course's grade*

**III. TOPICS:**

1. Basic Water Analysis and Aquatic Invertebrate Collection \*
2. Terrestrial Insect Collection, Killing, Pinning and ID\*
3. Stream Discharge Determination \*
4. Wildlife Population Estimate \*
5. Local Woodlot Bird Identification (sight & vocalizations)
6. Introduction to Aquatic Invertebrates, Key Use & Interpretation
7. Employment Opportunities
8. Interpretive Demonstrations

• **FIELD TRIP**

**IV. REQUIRED RESOURCES/ TEXTS/ MATERIALS:**

Peterson, Roger Tory. 1980. Eastern Birds. A Field Guide to the Birds. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.

Walker, V. 1999. Intro to Fish & Wildlife Lab Manual. Sault College, Sault Ste Marie.

Birds of Sault Ste. Marie Check List  
Dissection kit

Insect Display Box and pins (4 students per box of 100 pins)

**V. EVALUATION PROCESS/GRADING SYSTEM:**

Technical Reports (4)	<b>40%</b>
Insect Collection	<b>15%</b>
Interpretive Demonstration	<b>10%</b>
Field Forms	<b>10%</b>
Quizzes	<b>15%</b>
Participation	<b><u>10%</u></b>
	<b>100%</b>

**QUIZZES:** There will be several quizzes based on terrestrial insect ID, aquatic invertebrate ID, speaker presentations, valued at 15% total

**PARTICIPATION:** Student participation in the annual Deer Check Station on St. Joseph's Island or any other F&W volunteer project will be valued at 5% each, up to a maximum of 10% total.

**BONUS:** Wildlife scats (not including waterfowl) collected and in good condition with pertinent information included, will be awarded 1% per scat up to a MAXIMUM of 5% (for 5 different scats).

**NOTE:** Lab assignments and report values will be reduced at a rate of **10% per day** for late submissions for a period of 5 days after the due date. After 5 days any lab assignment/report value will be zero. All labs/assignments and reports must be submitted regardless of lateness to pass the course.

Attendance during field exercises is **MANDATORY**. Student missing field work without valid, documented reason will risk repeating the course.

**NOTE:** Students given the opportunity to submit a lab report associated with a **missed** field trip will receive a maximum grade of 60% for that report

The following semester grades will be assigned to students in postsecondary courses:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Grade Point Equivalent</u>
A+	90 - 100%	4.00
A	80 - 89%	3.75
B	70 - 79%	3.00
C	60 - 69%	2.00
R (Repeat)	59% or below	0.00
CR (Credit)	Credit for diploma requirements has been awarded.	
S	Satisfactory achievement in field placement or non-graded subject areas.	
X	A temporary grade. This is used in limited situations with extenuating circumstances giving a student additional time to complete the requirements for a course (see <i>Policies &amp; Procedures Manual - Deferred Grades and Make-up</i> ).	
NR	Grade not reported to Registrar's office. This is used to facilitate transcript preparation when, for extenuating circumstances, it has been impossible for the faculty member to report grades.	

**VI. SPECIAL NOTES:**

Special Needs:

If you are a student with special needs (e.g. physical limitations, visual impairments, hearing impairments, or learning disabilities), you are encouraged to discuss required accommodations with your instructor and/or the Special Needs office. Visit Room E1204 or call Extension 493, 717, or 491 so that support services can be arranged for you.

Retention of course outlines:

It is the responsibility of the student to retain all course outlines for possible future use in acquiring advanced standing at other postsecondary institutions.

Plagiarism:

Students should refer to the definition of “academic dishonesty” in *Student Rights and Responsibilities*. Students who engage in “academic dishonesty” will receive an automatic failure for that submission and/or such other penalty, up to and including expulsion from the course/program, as may be decided by the professor/dean. In order to protect students from inadvertent plagiarism, to protect the copyright of the material referenced, and to credit the author of the material, it is the policy of the department to employ a documentation format for referencing source material.

Course outline amendments:

The Professor reserves the right to change the information contained in this course outline depending on the needs of the learner and the availability of resources.

Substitute course information is available in the Registrar's office.

**VII. PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT:**

Students who wish to apply for advanced credit in the course should consult the professor. Credit for prior learning will be given upon successful completion of a challenge exam or portfolio.

**VIII. DIRECT CREDIT TRANSFERS:**

Students who wish to apply for direct credit transfer (advanced standing) should obtain a direct credit transfer form from the Dean’s secretary. Students will be required to provide a transcript and course outline related to the course in question.