

## Academic Affairs Committee

### Course Proposal Form

- This course proposal form should be completed when introducing a new course or revising an existing course.
- Download and complete the form on your computer, do not fill out in a web browser.
- All proposals must first go through your departmental curriculum committee process before being submitted to the Academic Affairs Committee (AAC). Be sure to plan for departmental and AAC schedules and deadlines.
- The proposal will be reviewed by the AAC or, in the case of a minor revision, approved administratively by the Associate Provost for Instruction.
- If you are proposing a new course, or renumbering an existing course, please check with the Registrar regarding use/reuse of the number.
- If you are proposing a SUNY general education course, please contact curriculum@esf.edu for more information and guidance. General education courses require additional paperwork.

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Contact phone: 315-848-2566 ext. 2108

Department: Environmental Biology

#### 1. Course Information

- 1.1. Type of Proposal:                      New                       Revision                       Replacement
- 1.2. Course Prefix, Number & Title: EFB 306, Wildlife Field Techniques
- 1.3. If this course is replacing a current ESF course, please provide the number and name of the course to be deactivated and removed, if this proposal is approved:

- 1.4. If this is a course revision, please indicate the reason for revision (check all that apply):

- |                                                             |                                                |                                                  |                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Course Number, Division, or Prefix | <input type="checkbox"/> Title                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Hours            | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre or Co-Requisites |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Catalog Description     | <input type="checkbox"/> Instructional Methods | <input type="checkbox"/> General Education       | <input type="checkbox"/> Format               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learning Outcomes                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Concepts or Content   | <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Semester Offered     |

## 2. Detailed Course Description

- 2.1. Describe why this course (or revision) is needed to meet current or proposed goals and outcomes of the program or College. For revisions, provide explanation and/or justification for change.

This course introduces students to essential skills necessary for field-based study of vertebrate animals by professional wildlife scientists, and conservation and environmental biologists. It will serve as a field elective for the majors within the Environmental Biology Department.

- 2.2. Credit hours: 3

- 2.3. Semester offered (check all that apply):  Fall  Spring  Summer

- 2.4. Anticipated enrollment per semester offered: Fall \_\_\_\_\_ Spring \_\_\_\_\_ Summer 17

- 2.5. Format (for online courses, please also complete Part 4 Addendum). Check all that apply and include the contact hours per week of each format being used.

- Lecture \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lab \_\_\_\_\_  
 Field \_\_\_\_\_  
 Studio \_\_\_\_\_  
 Online \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

If other checked above, please explain:

This is a two-week course. Daily instruction will consist of 1-2 hours lecture, 6-7 hours of laboratory/field-based activities and demonstration.

- 2.6. Level of instruction :

Lower Division  Upper Division  Beg. Graduate  Adv. Graduate

- 2.7. Is this a general education course?

Yes  No

- 2.8. Is this a required course?

Yes  No

If yes, please list the program(s) for which it is a requirement:

- 2.9. Is this course an elective within your department?

Yes  No

- 2.10. Is enrollment in this class restricted?

Yes  No

If yes, please explain:

Preference will be given to upper-division students in the Dept. of Env. Biology; enrollment is capped to provide effective field instruction and to facilitate transportation with university vehicles

- 2.11. Are other ESF or SU courses similar or identical to this course?

Yes  No

If yes, please identify the courses:

- 2.12. Is this course a shared resource offering?

Yes  No

If yes, what is the course number of the concurrent offering?

- 2.13. **Student Learning Outcomes:** Identify the student learning outcomes associated with this course.

After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify common, northeastern US, terrestrial, vertebrate species by sight/sound/sign.
2. Demonstrate proper, ethical and safe procedures for handling wildlife.
3. Properly prepare wildlife surveying permits.
4. Apply passive and active detection methods used to survey wildlife populations.
5. Monitor wildlife populations using radio telemetry, trail cameras, acoustic devices, and other techniques.
6. Identify habitat characteristics and suitability for surveying wildlife.

- 2.14. **Major concepts, processes or tools:** Identify the course content and themes (e.g. Table of Contents) consistent with the learning domains and outcomes.

- \*Field identification of bird/mammals/amphibians/reptiles
- \*Standard capture methods, e.g., small mammal traps, mist netting, pit fall traps
- \*Animal marking, e.g., banding, fur trimming
- \*Animal measurements, e.g., weighing, body length, tail length
- \*Biological sampling, e.g., blood draws, skin biopsies, hair collection
- \*Population monitoring techniques, e.g., point counts, emergence counts, passive camera traps, radio telemetry, acoustic recording devices, brick-array cover boards, leaf-litter bags
- \*Sampling design for surveying and monitoring methods
- \*Safety/ethics in wildlife handling practices
- \*Field measurements of wildlife habitat characteristics
- \*Determining wildlife detection probability

- 2.15. **Instructional methods:** Identify the methods used to meet the course outcomes, as well as the principal instructional methods.

The main instructional methods will include demonstrations and hands-on learning to practice identification and use of equipment to survey wildlife. Field guides, audio files, photographs, and observations of animals in the wild will be used as tools for identification of wildlife. Lab activities (mainly outdoors) will include hands-on practice with equipment, tools, and handling wildlife. Quizzes and tests will also aid in assessment. Results will be incorporated into written and/or oral presentation format for assessment as individual and group projects.

- 2.16. **Course history:** Provide the dates of prior approval of this course, and its revision history. For new courses, enter not applicable.

This course has been taught in recent years and by several instructors as EFB496.

- 2.17. **Catalog description (max 1000 characters):** Provide the course description to be included in the ESF catalog

Format: Field, laboratory, lecture

Brief description. If this is a shared resource course, include “Credit will not be given for both 3XX and 5XX”:

The study of theory and application of common field techniques for monitoring wildlife populations. Concepts and methods include ethical care and use of wildlife in field research; identification of New York mammals by tracks, photos, and in-hand specimens; assessment of habitat quality; monitoring of elusive forest species; techniques for capturing, handling, and measuring wild animals; radio telemetry; acoustic surveys. Satisfies field study elective requirement in all Environmental Biology majors. Room, board, transportation and course fees will apply.

Semester(s) offered: Summer, Cranberry Lake Biological Station

Pre/co-requisites: Two semesters of General Biology (EFB101,102,103,104) or equivalent

### 3. New Institutional Impacts

This section pertains to forecasting institutional resource needs to support the course or course revision. Provide clear statements regarding the needs and current availability (or absence) of resources. **Note that, if this is a course revision, only the impacts of the revision should be included.**

3.1. Staffing needs:

Qualified instructor

3.2. Classroom resources (physical facilities in a laboratory, lecture hall, flexible space, academic computing):

Digital projector, computer and internet access

3.3. Technology resources: (e.g., electron microscopes, UAVs, GPS receivers, survey equipment, etc.)

GPS receivers, radio telemetry equipment, Sherman and pitfall traps, and acoustic surveying devices, camera traps

3.4. Computing resources (software licensing, hardware, access):

Computers with Kaleidoscope Lite (free version) software from Wildlife Acoustics

3.5. Library resources (subscriptions, services):

Access to Moon Library collections.

3.6. Transportation requirements (budget, fees, fleet, vehicles):

Occasional field trips (van/boat)

3.7. Will there be a course fee required?

Yes  No

3.8. Forest properties or field practicum facilities (Note: Please contact Forest properties each semester to schedule):

Cranberry Lake Biological Station (Pack Forest), Ranger School (Dubar Forest)

**4. Online Course Addendum** (only complete for online or hybrid course formats)

4.1. Online Course Format:

- Asynchronous online (no required real time class meetings)
- Synchronous online (all class meetings in real time)
- Combined online (asynchronous with some required synchronous class meetings)
- Hybrid (In person course with at least 1 credit of work/class meetings held online)

4.2. If there are any real time or live class meetings, how often and how long do you expect them to be?

**Course Needs**

- 4.3. Will you be using Blackboard at SU as your learning management system?      Yes     No   
If no, please explain. Who will provide technical support and troubleshooting for students?

4.4. Which of the following institutional or supported tools will you be using (check all that apply)?

- Zoom
- Blackboard Collaborate
- Kaltura Media
- CNS Computer labs
- Other:

- 4.5. Will students need to use specialized software?      Yes     No   
If yes, will it be made available to them through the institution, or will they need to purchase it separately?

- 4.6. Will students need any additional computer hardware, such as a webcam, microphone, or camera?      Yes     No

If yes, what equipment will they need?

## **Interaction & Assessment**

4.7. What are two specific ways that you will provide substantive interaction in your course?

4.8. What is the proposed schedule of regular interaction in the course?

4.9. How will student academic engagement and success be monitored throughout the course?

4.10. How often and by what methods will students be assessed in the course?

## 5. Health and Safety Considerations

Will any of the conditions or situations outlined below be present in association with the course?

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Yes                                 | No                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5.1. Will substances with any of the following properties be used during instruction: flammability, toxicity, corrosivity, reactivity, registered pesticide, legally controlled, or other characteristics with the potential to cause harm or injury? | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5.2. Will any physical hazards be present during instruction? (e.g. machines that need safety guards; razor blades or syringes; compressed gases, etc.)                                                                                               | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5.3. Will any biological hazards be present during instruction? (e.g. handling animals [rabies or hantavirus]; cultures or stocks of infectious agents [fungal spores, viruses, bacteria, etc.]                                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 5.4. Will any radiation hazards be present during instruction? (e.g. radiosotopes, X-rays, ultraviolet rays, lasers, etc.)                                                                                                                            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5.5. Will any electrical equipment that, due to its design, location, or method of use, pose any threat to safety during instruction? (Give considerable thought to electrical use outdoors, or any potentially wet location)                         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5.6. Will there be any personal safety issues related to the class? (e.g. due to time of day or location, at the end of any organized class exercise, will students be in danger of physical assault, etc.)                                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 5.7. Will any students be driving official state or research sponsored land or water vehicles during any class or instructional exercise?                                                                                                             | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5.8. Will any type or personal protective equipment be necessary during class exercises? (e.g. hard-hats, eye/face protection, hearing protection, hand/foot protection, lab coat, visibility clothing, etc.)                                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

If the answer was "yes" to any of the health and safety questions, please explain:

5.3 This course involves observing and handling small mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles. Proper animal handling guidelines will be followed (IACUC), and permits will be obtained as necessary (state and federal).

5.6 This course involves outdoor field-oriented lab exercises. Other than the conditions normal to exercises in forested settings, students will not be exposed to any special hazardous conditions. Students will be instructed on safe walking techniques when traveling forest paths. Also, the field areas in which we work are remote, hence emergency assistance can be delayed. All faculty/staff members will carry 2-way radios in case of emergency.

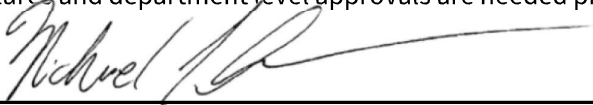
5.8 - Due to the uneven terrain encountered in many field laboratory sites, students will be required to proper footwear that provide support and protection. Due to abrasion from low-level forest vegetations, students will be required to wear shirts and long pants during all field exercises. In addition, all faculty/staff members will be required to carry 2-way radios, where there is no cellular service to maintain contact with the administrative site in the even of emergencies.

For lab and field courses to which all answers are "no", you should explain that here, also. Normally, we would expect some safety precautions for such courses.



**6. Approval Signatures:**

All signatures and department level approvals are needed prior to submission to the Academic Affairs Committee.



3/29/24

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Department Academic Affairs Committee Representative (if applicable)

Date

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Department Chair

Date

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Provost  
(if proposal requires additional staffing or resources)

Date

If your proposal will impact other departments/areas, please include email confirmation that those affected have been notified and approve of the change.