

# **Large Carnivores in Ecology—FES 499**

1 credit, 1-1:50pm, Mondays, Richardson Hall 243

Instructor: William J. Ripple [bill.ripple@oregonstate.edu](mailto:bill.ripple@oregonstate.edu)

**Course website:** <http://trophiccascades.forestry.oregonstate.edu/courses>

**Prerequisites:** none

**Course Content:** The objective of this course is to examine large carnivores and their effects on ecosystems. We will investigate the status, trends, and conservation of large carnivores. We will also discuss the how large carnivores effect ecosystems through their effects on their prey, plants, or smaller carnivores. Emphasis will be place on wolves and bears, but other carnivores will be discussed. Topics will range from the effects of predators in structuring ecosystems, to the implications for ecosystem function, management, and restoration. The course will consist of presentations by the instructor as well as a series of presentations by world experts on large carnivores.

## **Objectives and measurable Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of the course, all students will be able to:

1. Understand large carnivore ecology.
2. Cite recent applications of how large carnivores affect ecosystems.
3. Recognize the status, trends and conservation of large carnivores.

## **Evaluation of Student Performance**

Student performance in meeting learning outcomes in **FES 499** will be evaluated as follows: This is a pass/no-pass course and this grade will be based on attendance and participation. Students will be allowed up to two excused absences and these will be considered on a case-by-case basis and must be requested by emailing the instructor in advance of the class. Unexcused absences will result in a grade of no-pass. During class presentations, the instructor may ask the students to write one question on paper (with their name) concerning the content of the presentation, to be handed in immediately following the presentation.

### Attendance

Class attendance is mandatory: attendance will be taken at each class with a sign in sheet and/or by students including their name on the in-class writing assignment as described above.

### **In-class screen use policy**

To allow students to focus on class presentations and discussions, the use of screens (phones, tablets, computers) by students will generally not be allowed in class. Contact the instructor in advance if you have a special need to use a screen during the class period.

## Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities

OSU Policy on Students with Disabilities:

*Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by Disability Access Services (DAS). If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098 or at <http://ds.oregonstate.edu>. DAS notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations."*

There is a student in our class who is eligible to receive a Notetaker through Disability Access Services. The pay for providing notes is usually \$50 to \$100 per course or students can request documentation of community service hours. If you have at least a 2.5 GPA and take accurate, legible notes, please go online to sign up as a notetaker at <http://ds.oregonstate.edu/notetaker> or visit the DAS office in A200 Kerr Administration Building

## Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct

Please see the OSU Student Conduct website:

[http://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/sites/studentlife.oregonstate.edu/files/code\\_of\\_student\\_conduct.pdf](http://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/sites/studentlife.oregonstate.edu/files/code_of_student_conduct.pdf)

### Schedule

### Topic (lecture)

April 2	Class overview, Introductions, Ripple Lecture #1- Big and fierce carnivores of long ago
April 9	Do salmon make berries by growing bears? Dr. Taal Levi
April 16	Large Carnivore Ecology Dr. Luke Painter
April 23	Bill Ripple lecture #2
April 30	Bill Ripple lecture #3
May 7	Can wolves change streams? Dr. Bob Beschta
May 14	How do bears in Alaska get so big and fat? Dr. Johnny Armstrong
May 21	The Wolves and Moose of Isle Royale: where ecology meets ethics Dr. Michael Nelson
May 28	Memorial Day
June 4	Conservation of the World's Large Carnivores Dr. Chris Wolf

## **FES 499 ST/Large Carnivores in Ecology**

Spring Term 2018, 1 credit, Mondays 1:00pm – 1:50pm, Room 243 Richardson Hall, CRN is 59717.

Instructor: Bill Ripple [bill.ripple@oregonstate.edu](mailto:bill.ripple@oregonstate.edu)

Are you fascinated with large predators and hearing tidbits on how predators can have strong cascading effects in nature? In *Large Carnivores in Ecology*, we will explore interesting and often little known ecological effects of large carnivores on the structure and function of ecosystems. Featured carnivores include grey wolves, grizzly bears, cougars, lions, and others. We will also investigate the global conservation status and trends of large carnivores and their important herbivore prey. While some large carnivore species are doing fine, most are suffering from range contractions, declining populations, and are threatened with extinction due to human activities. The conservation of large carnivores will be an underlying theme throughout the course as we discuss how these predators are declining (or increasing as in Yellowstone) just as scientists are discovering their important ecological effects.