



COURSE CURRICULUM

Course Title: Wildlife Research Methods

Course Code:

Credit Units: 02

Level: PG

Course Objectives:

The objective of this course is to describe about the Research Design, Ethical issues, Planning the research; Literature Review, Qualitative Research and Writing up the research proposal.

Prerequisites:

Graduate from Biological science Bachelor degree in Science/Zoology/Botany/Anthropology/Veterinary/Environmental Science/Forestry/ Agriculture/Geography/Natural Resources/Ecology and minor in any of these subjects.

Course Contents/Syllabus:

L	T	P/S	SW/FW	TOTAL CREDIT UNITS
2	0	0	0	2

	Weightage (%)
Module I	25
Research Design - Understanding research, The qualitative/quantitative divide, Overview of different research traditions – action research, case studies, documentary analysis, ethnographic research, experiments, grounded theory, surveys Ethical Considerations: Ethics committee, ethical guidelines – voluntary participation, informed consent, confidentiality and anonymity, plagiarism, academic fraud and misinterpreting results, conflict of interests, observation, permissions, video/audio taping	
Module II	25
Planning the research: Selecting a topic, Topic to research question – problem definition, research question, hypothesis, research objectives; Research question to research design –	

developing the design; Data gathering – primary and secondary	
Literature Review: Introduction to literature review, Methodology of literature review; Literature sources – books and journals, electronic databases, government and industry, internet; Writing a literature review; Referencing – systems, referencing websites, citations, use of softwares	
Module III	25
Qualitative Research Qualitative data collection techniques: collecting secondary data - journals, existing documents and records, etc.; collecting primary data – sampling need and design, pilots, techniques- surveys, questionnaires and rating scales, checklists, observations, interviews-structures, semi structured and open Analyzing data: quantitative analysis - using descriptive statistics, using inferential statistics, use of computer software; qualitative analysis – grounded theory, pattern coding, use of matrices	
Module IV	25
Writing up the research: Grammar, punctuation and conventions of academic writing - Tense, gender neutral language, referencing, use of notes and footnotes, English and American spellings, abbreviations, consistency; Layout of the thesis – use of headings, sub headings and titles, formatting, inclusion of tables and figures, listing references and bibliography; Writing preliminary pages and introduction; Writing up methodology; Writing data analysis chapters; Writing discussion and conclusion chapters; Publishing – selecting findings, selecting journals, the refereeing process	

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. familiarity with current problems, practices and controversies in wildlife management
2. familiarity with ecological theory as the scientific basis of wildlife management and with factors determining abundance and habitat utilisation by terrestrial vertebrates;
3. familiarity with practical problems and methodologies in wildlife management

Pedagogy for Course Delivery:

Class room lectures, PowerPoint presentations, Tutorial sessions, Discussions and Interactions and assignments/tests/term papers/seminars

Assessment / Examination Scheme:

Theory L/T (%)	Lab/Practical/Studio (%)	End Term Examination
30%	NA	70%

Theory Assessment (L&T):

Continuous Assessment/Internal Assessment					End Term Examination
Component (Drop down)	Mid-Term Exam	Project	Viva	Attendance	
Weightage (%)	10	10	5	5	70

References:

1. Wildlife Technical Manual, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun
2. The Wildlife Techniques Manual: Volume 1: Research. Volume 2: Management 2-vol. set by [Nova J. Silvy](#)
3. Techniques for Wildlife Investigation and Management [Hardcover]
by [Clait Braun](#) , Publisher: Wildlife Society; 6 edition (August 1, 2005)
4. Ecological Census Techniques: A Handbook [Paperback]
by [William J. Sutherland](#), Cambridge University Press; 2 edition (August 14, 2006)
5. Caughley, G. (1978). Analysis of vertebrate populations. John Wiley, Chichester.
6. Gotelli, N. J. (2001). A Primer of Ecology. Third Edition. Sinaur Associates. 265pp.
7. Hastings, A. (1997). Population biology: Concepts and models. Springer-Verlag, New York.
8. Neal, D. (2004). Introduction to population biology. Cambridge University Press.