WFSC-WILDLIFE & FISHERIES
SCI (WFSC)

WFSC 101 Introduction to Wildlife and Fisheries
Credit 1. 1 Lecture Hour.
Introduction to the wildlife and fisheries profession and to alternatives for
study in the department.
Prerequisite: Open only to students with less than 36 hours at Texas A&M
University. Registration through the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Sciences only.

WFSC 291 Research
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Other Hours.
Research conducted under the direction of faculty member in wildlife and
fisheries sciences. May be repeated 3 times for credit.
Prerequisites: Freshman or sophomore classification and approval of
instructor.

WFSC 300/ENTO 300 Field Studies
Credits 3. 3 Other Hours.
Integration of principles of animal and plant ecology with environmental
factors to characterize wildlife populations. Intensive analysis of specific
areas will emphasize either the development of a wildlife management
plan or a general vertebrate natural history survey.
Prerequisite: Prior approval of instructor.
Cross Listing: ENTO 300/WFSC 300.

WFSC 301 Wildlife and the Changing Environment
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Using an ecosystem approach, analyzes changes in the North American
environment; effects of these changes on wildlife populations; and
reviews areas of major, current concern.
Prerequisites: Junior or senior classification; restricted to non-majors.

WFSC 302 Natural History of the Vertebrates
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 2 Lab Hours.
Introduction to life histories of fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds and
mammals; lecture covers vertebrate groups on a worldwide scale and
emphasizes a comparative approach to the study of adaptation to the
environment; lecture topics include behavior, reproduction, feeding
specializations, evolutionary history, locomotion, hibernation, migration,
dergarded species, zoogeography and importance to man; laboratory
emphasizes the recognition of Texas vertebrates. Designed for both
science and non-science majors.
Prerequisites: BIOL 111 and BIOL 112 or BIOL 101 and BIOL 107 or
equivalent.

WFSC 303 Fish and Wildlife Laws and Administration
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Review and analysis of state and federal laws and international treaties
and conventions affecting fish and wildlife; their application and
administration; organizational structure of state, federal and international
agencies; their objectives, policies and practices.
Prerequisites: RENR 205 or BIOL 357; junior classification.

WFSC 304 Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Ecological principles used to conserve and manage wildlife and fisheries
resources at the individual, population and community levels; topics
include conservation biology, species interactions, animal-habitat
relationships, population dynamics and harvesting, habitat management
and restoration and human dimensions of fish and wildlife conservation.
Prerequisites: RENR 205 and junior or senior classification or approval of
instructor.

WFSC 311 Ichthyology
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Introduction to the study of fishes, their biology, classification, evolution,
distribution, ecology and economic importance.
Prerequisite: WFSC 302 or BIOL 318.

WFSC 314 Down River: Biology of Gulf Coastal Fishes
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Understanding the biological complexity of Gulf coast river systems
while gaining hands-on experience in field and museum ichthyological
techniques; sampling of the Guadalupe and San Antonio rivers;
participation in lectures, museum preparation and archiving specimens at
the Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collections (BRTC).
Prerequisites: WFSC 311 with a grade of B or better and approval of
instructor.

WFSC 315 Herpetology
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 2 Lab Hours.
Evolutionary ecology of reptiles and amphibians and conservation
biology of the major groups; labs concentrate on the global diversity of
herps and the herpetofauna of Texas; foundation for students in wildlife
biology of the major groups; labs concentrate on the global diversity of
herps and the herpetofauna of Texas; foundation for students in wildlife
science and biology.
Prerequisites: WFSC 302 or approval of instructor; WFSC 302 or
BIOL 318.

WFSC 316 Field Herpetology
Credit 1. 3 Lab Hours.
Field work involving collection and preservation of herpetological
specimens; natural history, ecological relations. Available for students
enrolled in WFSC 315 who would like to have field trips.
Prerequisite: WFSC 315 or registration therein.

WFSC 327/VTPB 301 Wildlife Diseases
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Basic mechanisms of diseases as they occur in wildlife populations;
interplay of habitat requirements, individual physiological requirements
and disease producing mechanisms of varied wildlife species.
Prerequisite: Junior classification or approval of department head.
Cross Listing: VTPB 301/WFSC 327.

WFSC 335 Natural History of the Invertebrates
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
A phylogenetic survey of the invertebrate phyla including their taxonomy,
morphology, life histories, ecology, ethology and zoogeography. Field
trips may be required for which departmental fees may be assessed to
cover costs.

WFSC 337/VTPB 301 Wildlife Diseases
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Basic mechanisms of diseases as they occur in wildlife populations;
interplay of habitat requirements, individual physiological requirements
and disease producing mechanisms of varied wildlife species.
Prerequisite: Junior classification or approval of department head.
Cross Listing: VTPB 301/WFSC 327.

WFSC 341 General Mammalogy
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Mammalian biology; evolution, classification, biogeography, reproduction,
physiology, ecology, and behavior; focuses on basic concepts necessary
for a foundation in both wildlife science and biology.
Prerequisites: WFSC 302 or BIOL 318; junior classification.
WFSC 402 General Ornithology
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Introduction to study of birds, their structure, classification, geographic
distribution, ecological relations and economic status; foundation of
wildlife science, also for museum work.
Prerequisites: WFSC 302 or BIOL 318; junior classification.

WFSC 403 Animal Ecology
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Concepts of animal ecology which emerge at various levels of
organization; the ecosystem, the community, the population and the
individual; laboratories emphasis on the quantitative analysis of field
data and the simulation of population dynamics.
Prerequisites: WFSC 201 and RENR 205 or approval of instructor; junior
classification.

WFSC 404 Aquatic Ecosystems
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Inland and coastal zone aquatic ecosystems, lower foodweb structure,
functioning and influence on living resources; lakes, rivers, estuaries,
open bay systems, factors impacting ecosystem health and fisheries;
harmful algal blooms, reduced water inflows, eutrophication and hypoxia
formation as they affect foodwebs, recruitment of commercially and
recreationally important fisheries.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

WFSC 405 Urban Wildlife and Fisheries
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Urban wildlife and fisheries trains students to establish and maintain
diverse, self-sustaining urban wildlife and fish populations at levels in
harmony with ecological, social, and economic values of the human
community and to develop optimal levels of public appreciation and use
of urban wildlife and fish resources and associated habitats.
Prerequisites: RENR 205; junior or senior classification.

WFSC 406 Wildlife Habitat Management
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Designed to acquaint the student with major land use practices on
lands that produce wildlife, how these influence wildlife production and
alterations or manipulations of habitat used to achieve specific wildlife
management goals.
Prerequisites: WFSC 201 and WFSC 403; WFSC 401 or WFSC 402;
senior classification; wildlife and fisheries sciences major or approval of
instructor; concurrent registration in WFSC 407 required.

WFSC 407 Field Wildlife Habitat Management
Credit 1. 2 Lab Hours.
Field and laboratory studies of specific wildlife habitat management
practices with special emphasis on those used in Texas; attendance
required at four weekend field trips to study wildlife habitat operations.
Prerequisite: Concurrent registration in WFSC 406 required.

WFSC 408 Techniques of Wildlife Management
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Techniques available to directly and indirectly manipulate wild animal
populations to achieve balance between socioeconomic and aesthetic
values.
Prerequisites: Senior classification; WFSC 403 and WFSC 406 or
registration therein or approval of instructor.

WFSC 409 NATURE in the Classroom: Needed Activities To Understand
Resource Ecology
Credit 1. 3 Lab Hours.
Integration of natural resources through conservation ecology programs,
utilization of research techniques adaptable for classroom use; field trips
to community facilities, gaming strategies and computer simulations.
Prerequisites: WFSC 420 or RENR 205 or concurrent enrollment; junior or
senior classification.

WFSC 410 Principles of Fisheries Management
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Basic knowledge from ichthyology, biology of fishes and limnology
related to applied aspects of freshwater and marine fishery science.
Management techniques applicable to streams, ponds, reservoirs,
estuaries and the oceans.
Prerequisites: WFSC 311 and WFSC 414; STAT 302 or concurrent
enrollment; or approval of instructor.

WFSC 414 Ecology of Lakes and Rivers
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Introduction to the ecosystems that comprise the coastal zone with
an emphasis on the role of freshwater inflows; open bay systems are
the focus of lectures, but fringing habitats are also discussed; human
components of the coastal zone are also discussed including industrial,
commercial domestic, conservation and restoration issues.
Prerequisites: CHEM 101 and CHEM 222; PHYS 201; junior or senior
classification.

WFSC 417 Biology of Fishes
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Fishes' physiological and morphological adaptations for life in aquatic
systems; physiological and behavioral responses of fish to environmental
variation. Laboratory emphasizes design, conduct and analysis of virtual
experiments featuring "EcoFish," a simulation model of fish autecology.
Prerequisites: WFSC 302 or WFSC 311; WFSC 414; or approval of
instructor.

WFSC 418 Ecology of the Coastal Zone
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Introduction to the ecosystems that comprise the coastal zone with
an emphasis on the role of freshwater inflows; open bay systems are
the focus of lectures, but fringing habitats are also discussed; human
components of the coastal zone are also discussed including industrial,
commercial domestic, conservation and restoration issues.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification.

WFSC 419 Wildlife Restoration
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Study of the fundamentals of the restoration of animal populations
and the resources they require; factors that control the distribution and
abundances of animals in relation to restoration; and how restoration
plans for wildlife are developed.
Prerequisite: RENR 205 or equivalent; junior or senior classification
or approval of instructor; WFSC 406 and WFSC 407 and ESSM 320
preferred.

WFSC 420 Ecology and Society
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Study and compare human and natural ecosystems using diversity,
interrelations, cycles, and energy as the conceptional organization;
central themes are sustainability, stewardship and science.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification.
WFSC 422 Ethology
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Survey of the control, ontogeny, function and natural selection of behavior in a variety of vertebrate and invertebrate species; interaction between the organism and its environment with regard to the mechanisms and adaptive significance of behavior; evolution of anti-predator, feeding, reproductive and cooperative traits.
Prerequisite: BIOL 112 or equivalent.

WFSC 423 Aquaculture
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Principles of fish production for stock enhancement and human food. Species of fish used for production, cross-breeding and selection; feeds and feeding of fishes and nutritional and environmental requirements for optimum productivity; effects of fish production on land and water uses as related to conservation.

WFSC 425 Marine Fisheries
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Survey of fisheries for marine vertebrates and invertebrates primarily in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic with special emphasis being directed to their biology, economics and management.

WFSC 426/MARB 426 Aquatic Animal Nutrition
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Chemistry, digestion, absorption and intermediary metabolism of nutrient classes with special emphasis on their relationship to warmwater fish nutrition; determination of nutrient requirements, feed evaluation, feed processing, ration formulation and feeding practices.
Prerequisites: CHEM 222; CHEM 227 or equivalent. Taught even years.
Cross Listing: MARB 426.

WFSC 427 Disease Management in Fisheries and Aquaculture
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 2 Lab Hours.
Fish and invertebrates of economic importance; factors influencing the maintenance of health for each species group; problems and solutions unique to each phase of aquaculture from breeding to growout; application of routine diagnosis and other management tools.
Prerequisite: Junior classification.

WFSC 428 Wetland Ecosystem Management
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Ecosystem approach to the ecology and management of wetlands; emphasis on factors controlling wetland structure and function, characteristics of different wetland types, and applied issues of wetland restoration, creation and delineation.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification.

WFSC 433 Molecular Ecology in Wildlife and Fisheries
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Fundamentals of molecular ecology applied to conservation and management of wildlife and fisheries; presentation and discussion of scientific papers on wildlife and fisheries molecular ecology; topics in conservation, management and aquaculture.
Prerequisites: BIOL 112 or equivalent; junior or senior classification.

WFSC 444 Aquaculture I: Principles and Practices
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Scientific perspectives concerning major principles associated with fish production under controlled conditions; production techniques associated with prominent species produced via aquaculture throughout the world with emphasis on those cultured in the United States.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

WFSC 447 Aquaculture II: Aquatic Animal Nutrition, Feeding and Disease Management
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Review of scientific perspectives on major aspects of nutrition, diet formulation and feeding of aquatic species in aquaculture; major disease-causing organisms encountered in aquaculture and means of disease prevention and control.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

WFSC 449 Professional Aspects of Aquatic Ecology
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Discipline of aquatic sciences through oral presentation and written documentation; job market expectations, resume preparation, job application, and preparation for and giving an interview.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

WFSC 450/ENTO 450 Caribbean Conservation
Credits 2. 6 Lab Hours.
Provide experience in and appreciation for diverse tropical habitats and the problems associated with conserving these habitats; design and conduct individual research projects on topics of their choice with approval from the instructors on project design and feasibility.
Prerequisites: Concurrent enrollment in ENTO 300/WFSC 300 and ENTO 451/WFSC 451; junior or senior classification.
Cross Listing: ENTO 450/WFSC 450.

WFSC 451/ENTO 451 Caribbean Research Seminar
Credit 1. 1 Other Hour.
Document research activities; keep a journal of activities and research methods during study abroad trips.
Prerequisites: Concurrent enrollment in ENTO 300/WFSC 300 and ENTO 450/WFSC 450; junior or senior classification.

WFSC 454 Amazon Field School
Credits 4. 4 Lecture Hours.
Investigation of social and ecological complexities of biodiversity conservation in tropical ecosystems; biological and social science approaches to evaluate causes, consequences and solutions to biodiversity loss through ecology, culture and governance.
Prerequisites: Junior or senior classification with a minimum GPA of 2.0 and approval of instructor.
Cross Listing: RPTS 454 and VTPB 404.

WFSC 462/BIOL 462 Amazon River Tropical Biology
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
History, ecology, evolutionary-biology, geography, and culture of the Amazon River and Rio Negro; exploration of the world's most bio-diverse river during a 10-day expedition from Manaus, Brazil; survey biota, record observations about the ecosystem, select research topics, development of presentations.
Prerequisites: BIOL 107, BIOL 112, BIOL 113, BIOL 357 or RENR 205; or approval of instructor.
Cross Listing: BIOL 462/WFSC 462.
WFSC 481 Seminar
Credit 1. 1 Lecture Hour.
Oral discussion of selected topics from technical literature on recent advances in the field.
Prerequisites: Senior classification in wildlife and fisheries sciences; 6 hours of 300- or 400-level wildlife and fisheries sciences courses. May be repeated for credit.

WFSC 484 Internship
Credits 1 to 9. 1 to 9 Other Hours.
Practical experience working in a professional wildlife or fisheries facility.
Prerequisite: Approval of department head.

WFSC 485 Directed Studies
Credits 1 to 3. 1 to 3 Other Hours.
Individual study and research on selected problem approved by instructor and academic advisor.
Prerequisites: Junior or senior classification; approval of department head.

WFSC 489 Special Topics in...
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Lecture Hours. 0 to 4 Lab Hours.
Selected topics in an identified area of wildlife and fisheries sciences. May be repeated for credit.
Prerequisite: Approval of department head.

WFSC 491 Research
Credits 1 to 6. 1 to 6 Other Hours.
Laboratory and/or field research supervised by a faculty member in wildlife and fisheries sciences. Registration in multiple sections of this course are possible within a given semester provided that the per semester credit hour limit is not exceeded.
Prerequisites: Junior or senior classification; approval of instructor.