

## BIO2000: Wildlife Photography J-Term 2009

**Professor:** Dr. Crain, 111 Sutton Hall, Ph. 8238, email: [drew.crain@maryvillecollege.edu](mailto:drew.crain@maryvillecollege.edu)

**Texts:** *Cades Cove Wildlife: A Visitors Guide (online version)* by Drew Crain (2008) ; available on Tartan *Rite in the Rain* all-weather notebook; available at the register in the MC bookstore

**Meetings:** MTWRF 01:00 PM - 04:00 PM in Sutton 113, Maryville College woods, Great Smoky Mountains National Park; weeks 2 and 3 will include several 6-hour class periods.

**Dr. Crain's website:** <http://faculty.maryvillecollege.edu/crain>

**Course website:** <http://elearn.maryvillecollege.edu>.

During this 3-week course, students will develop techniques necessary to take quality photographs of wildlife in their natural habitat. Topics covered will be:

1. Knowledge of wildlife in the area
2. Techniques for successful observation of wildlife
3. Photography basics (e.g., digital SLR photography, lighting, color, distinguishing features, composition, Adobe Photoshop)
4. Wildlife photography ethics (plagiarism, environmental stewardship, minimizing disturbance to wildlife).

This course is graded as a pass/fail course. To pass, you must actively engage in the course and be present at all classes. You cannot benefit from the experiential nature of this course if you are absent, so an unexcused absence will result in failure of the course.

As all experiential courses at MC, this course:

- 1. Involves active and sustained participation by the students.**  
No unexcused absences are allowed. The course will have 5 classroom days, and 10 field days. During the field days, students will be in the field practicing wildlife photography.
- 2. Is a new experience for the students.**  
This course will emphasize both successful observation of wildlife and photography of wildlife. For most students, these experiences will be new.
- 3. Requires the students not only do something new, but to reflect on the experience by standing back from the activity, assessing its significance, and drawing conclusions about it.**  
Each week of the course will include some computer lab time to critically evaluate photos and, thus, develop strategies to improve photos. The final two days of the course will include evaluation of the photographs taken. These reflection times will emphasize the points made during the first few days of the course.
- 4. Provides opportunities to test these conclusions**  
The final day will include a "photo contest" where students will judge the photographs taken. After the top five are chosen, the class will evaluate why these were selected, thus testing the conclusions.

5. **Has as its goal some modification in attitude or outlook**  
The techniques for wildlife observation will modify the student's understanding of wildlife and wildlife research and photography.
6. **Deepens students' sensitivity to social and physical surroundings**  
Observation of wildlife in their natural surroundings will lead to an increased appreciation of the wildlife and the habitat.

### **Daily Schedule**

Weather will dictate our daily schedule, but a tentative plan is presented below.

#### **Week 1**

**Monday, Jan. 5:** Intro to course: Knowledge of wildlife in the area; Techniques for successful observation of wildlife; Wildlife photography ethics; Judging photos

**Tuesday, Jan. 6:** Photography 101: digital photography, lighting, color, distinguishing features, composition

**Wednesday, Jan. 7:** Photos in the Field

**Thursday, Jan. 8:** Photos in the Field

**Friday, Jan. 9:** Photos in the Field/Adobe Photoshop

#### **Week 2<sup>1</sup>**

**Monday, Jan. 12:** Photos in the Field

**Tuesday, Jan. 13:** Photos in the Field

**Wednesday, Jan. 14:** Photos in the Field

**Thursday, Jan. 15:** Photos in the Field

**Friday, Jan. 16:** Adobe Photoshop<sup>2</sup>

#### **Week 3**

**Monday, Jan. 19:** Photos in the Field

**Tuesday, Jan. 20:** Photos in the Field

**Wednesday, Jan. 21:** Photos in the Field

**Thursday, Jan. 22:** Adobe Photoshop

**Friday, Jan. 23:** Photo contest

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<sup>1</sup> During week 2, students will pick two 6-hour classes to attend (having 2 other days off). We will depart at 10:00 a.m., arriving back ~4:00 p.m.

<sup>2</sup> To be held on an inclement weather day during Week 2.