

Seminar: Environmental Topics for Virginia
Conflict Management of Virginia Wildlife Resources

EVPP 692 (1.0 Credit) / EVPP 991 (2.0 credits) Spring 2022
100% online

Instructor: Dr. Richard Groover
he/his/him

Virtual Meeting Time will occur Mondays 4:30 pm – 7:10 pm

The Commonwealth of Virginia has abundant wildlife resources, but some species have issues in their existence and management in the human space, particularly when their existence results in negative impacts with humans. This seminar course will address several species in Virginia and how they affect or are affected by humans. The species to be addressed are:

Deer	Coyote	Red Wolf
Fox	Beaver	Bears
Nutria	Canada Geese	Rats
Groundhogs	Feral Cats	Snakehead Fish

Each student will select an animal for their report. The student report will cover natural history of the animal, distribution within Virginia, fecundity, legality issues (legal to kill) and other similar topics. After the student presentation, Dr. Groover will address the conflict that exists with each species.

This is a synchronous 100% online course. Most weeks the students will have pre-meeting homework that will prepare them for better conversation and understanding about the weekly topic, especially when the class has its online meetings and discussions. Lectures from the instructor plus other materials will be provided. Students will sign-up for and deliver a 30-minute PowerPoint presentation on their selected species, one per student.

All students will be graded on their discussion involvement and relevant inclusion of related topics. Some special short, graded assignments and some additional readings will occur.

EVPP 692 students will submit a written research outline focusing on the Virginia issue they selected. Each 692 student will also be required to present their 30-minute ZOOM presentation that covers her/his assigned topic. **The Written Outline (for EVPP 692 students):** This detailed summary outline of their chosen/assigned topic should have complete sentences (not phrases)

and will be submitted for a grade. Literature cited will be required, use the format your graduate committee prefers.

Each EVPP 991 student will also be required to present their 30-minute ZOOM presentation that covers her/his assigned/chosen topic. EVPP 991 students will be required to submit a summary paper about their chosen/assigned topic, which will be graded. **The Written Paper (for EVPP 991 only):** The summary paper (maximum of 5,000 words) should be properly written, proper grammar, referenced, and formatted to explain her/his assigned topic. Literature cited will be required, use the format your graduate committee prefers.

No textbook is required. Students must have reliable computer access to the course, which will run via posted ZOOM links. No sessions will be held in-person on campus.

Grading procedure: Participation in the weekly meetings and discussion will be observed and graded. Each student will be graded on their oral presentation and submitted document. Weekly participation in discussions will also be graded. An occasional additional assignment may be given and graded as part of the participation grade. Please note the grading information below.

Students will sign-up and deliver a 30-minute lecture on their selected species and a submitted written document on a Virginia environmental topic. Available assignment presentations will begin on January 31, 2022. Contact Dr. Groover no sooner and no later than January 25, 2022, for your requested topic. Assigned topics will be awarded on a first come first assigned basis.

Dates	Content	Assigned TO
January 24	Introduction to the course and discussion of the syllabus	Dr. Groover
January 31	Bear Facts	
February 7	Deer Facts	RSG
February 14	Coyote Facts	Curtis
February 21	Red Wolf Facts	Jen
February 28	Fox Facts	Jane
March 7	Beaver Facts	Rachel
March 14	Spring Break	NO CLASS MEETING
March 21	Nutria Facts	Carlos
March 28	Canada Geese Facts	Victoria
April 4	Rat Facts	RSG

April 11	Groundhog Facts	Sarah
April 18	Feral Cat Facts	Katrina
April 25	Snakehead Fish Facts	Karl

Students should not be overly concerned about the full magnitude of their assigned topic, but should present a summary which what might be considered with suitable detail to present the topic within the time limit for the oral presentation and the word limits for the written document.

Honor Code: Adherence to the *GMU Honor Code* is expected of all students, and especially for their materials submitted for grading. Review the Code if you don't know it.

Instructor Contact Information: **Dr. Richard Groover**

Email: rgroover@gmu.edu **Phone:** 804-381-1968. Students are expected to communicate with the instructor regarding any issues that might not allow the student to be an active and engaged student.

COURSE SCHEDULE ... see above

Your grade in the course will be based on the following:

EVPP 692 Students

Category	Point distribution
Participation/Discussions	400
Final detailed outline of the selected topic	400
Oral Presentation of the selected topic	200
Total	1000

A = 900 – 1000

B = 800 – 899

C = 700 - 799

EVPP 991 Students

Category	Point distribution
Participation/Discussions	400
Final written Summary/Paper of the selected topic	400

Oral Presentation of the selected topic	200
Total	1000

Any student absence from the course meetings should be communicated asap before the absence occurs, with the instructor, in writing.