Course Information

Unit Description
Australia has a unique terrestrial vertebrate fauna, but also has a terrible record of introducing invasive species and recent mammalian extinctions in particular. Because of Australia’s unique climate, landforms, and the rarity of many species, the management of our native wildlife presents special challenges for biologists, conservationists and land managers. This unit of study addresses the biogeography, ecology and management of Australia’s terrestrial fauna. The subject comprises of a five-day field course at Mary River Park in the Northern Territory. During the course, students will learn how to carry out fauna surveys, how to identify animals, and how to track wildlife. Biologists working on a range of environmental issues in the Top End will present guest lectures to students during the field trip. Students will travel to Litchfield National Park on the last day of the field course.

Pre-requisites
Please see: BIOL2010, BIOL2910, BIOL3010, BIOL3910

Course Dates
There are two field trips, of which, should you be successful, will be allocated to one (non-negotiable). The Top End field courses will run from Sunday 12 to Friday 17, and Sunday 19 to Friday 24 February, 2017 (inclusive) followed by lectures and practical classes at the University of Sydney from Monday 27 February to Friday 3 March 2017. The theory exam will be held at 2pm, Friday 3 March.

Fees
The cost of the field trip is $800*. You will also be liable for standard tuition fees.
*This fee covers 5 nights’ accommodation, all meals (Sunday night dinner to packed lunch for Friday – also incl. morning and afternoon tea), transfers to and from airport, a day trip tour to Litchfield National Park, and an Adelaide River cruise (complete with Jumping Crocodiles). This fee is non-refundable and does not include airfares. Students are required to arrange them themselves.

Flights and bus pick up times
Staff will meet students at Darwin airport at 1.30PM on the Sunday (either February 12, or 19). Both Qantas and Virgin have flights from Sydney that arrive in Darwin airport between 12 and 2pm. You may need/want to fly into Darwin the previous day and stay overnight (there are plenty of cheap backpacker-style options). The bus will return students to Darwin airport or Darwin CBD on Friday evening, in time for the direct flights that leave around midnight (or, you can stay overnight in accommodation and fly back at a more sensible hour on the Saturday). Please note that if you book one of the early morning flights to Sydney that the date will be the Saturday! Students wishing to spend more time in the Top End prior to, or following the fieldtrip can do so but are responsible for booking their own accommodation, transport, tours etc.
Lecturers
The course lecturers are Dr. Matt Greenlees, Prof. Rick Shine and Dr. Mathew Crowther. Other academic members of staff from the School of Life and Environmental Sciences will also contribute, as well as guest lecturers and/or researchers working in the Top End.

Contact
If you have any questions please email Dr. Matt Greenlees at matthew.greenlees@sydney.edu.au.

Enrolment Information
Places on this course are limited to 98 students – preference will go first to students enrolling in the senior (3010/3910) unit of study. Following this, places will be allocated on a first come – first served basis. A ‘reserve list’ will be kept in the event that payment and enrolment is not completed on time. Please review the pre-requisites for your chosen unit prior to applying to ensure you are eligible.

Should you wish to withdraw from the unit, you will need to do so by February 24, 2017 (Intensive February Census date) to avoid being liable for your unit tuition fees. The $800 field trip cost is non-refundable.

For questions and issues regarding enrolment, please contact soles.teaching@sydney.edu.au.

How to Apply
Step 1:
Complete the Tropical Wildlife Biology Expression of Interest/Emergency Contact Form by 5pm Sunday December 4, 2016.

The field course is run in a remote area. If you are a vegan, vegetarian, or have any special dietary requirements and do not explicitly inform us you will not be catered for.

Step 2:
First Round Offers
Your application will be assessed and should you be successful you will be sent an email by December 9, 2016 allocating you to a field trip (either 12-17 Feb, or 19-24 Feb) and providing you with your Letter of Departmental Permission that is required to enrol.

To accept your offer, you will need to do the following by January 6, 2017:
• Enrol yourself in the unit through Sydney Student. You will need to upload your Letter of Departmental Permission in order for your enrolment to be correctly processed.
• Pay the $800 field trip cost via the secure payment form.

If you do not accept your offer by completing the above by January 6, you will automatically be forfeiting your place in the unit. To withdraw your interest in the unit contact soles.teaching@sydney.edu.au for information.

Second Round Offers
Second round offers will be sent out via email by January 9, 2017. You will need to accept your offer (as above) by January 16, 2017.