

# FLEMING

## Course Outline

<b>Course Title:</b>	Wildlife Observation Skills		
<b>Course Number:</b>	FIWI41	<b>Approval Date:</b>	2025/1/4
<b>Course Hours:</b>	45 hours	<b>Academic Year:</b>	2024
<b>Academic School:</b>	School of Environmental& Natural Resource Sciences		
<b>Faculty:</b>	Doug McRae - Doug.McRae@flemingcollege.ca Keith Munro - Keith.Munro@flemingcollege.ca Matt Purvis - Matt.Purvis@flemingcollege.ca Julia Scarlett - julia.scarlett@flemingcollege.ca		
<b>Program Co-ordinator or Equivalent:</b>	Paul Ashley - paul.ashley@flemingcollege.ca		
<b>Dean (or Chair):</b>	Jennifer Hermer - jennifer.hermer@flemingcollege.ca		

## Course Description

This course is an introduction to a range of skills in wildlife observation. A variety of wildlife species may be present in an environment despite not being seen. Important skills include visual and auditory identification of wildlife signs. The primary emphasis in this course will be on identification of wildlife signs such as tracks, trail patterns, scat, skulls, impacts on the environment, bird song and amphibian calls. Documentation of wildlife observation will be practiced regularly. Field guides, photography, binoculars and spotting scopes will be used to document wildlife sightings and their signs.

**Prerequisites:** None.

**Corequisites:** None.

**Experiential Learning:** On-Campus Teaching Lab

## Course Delivery Type

**Face to face.**

All course hours are delivered in person at the delivery location specified on the academic timetable.

## Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate proficiency in the visual and audio identification of selected mammalian, avian, reptilian and amphibian fauna, and show understanding of their natural history.
2. Demonstrate proficiency in the identification of wildlife sign such as tracks, scat, and artifacts.
3. Demonstrate proficiency in data collection and writing field notes.
4. Demonstrate proficient use of equipment for wildlife observation; with a focus on field guides, field notebooks, photography, binoculars and/or spotting scopes.
5. Demonstrate proficiency in the use of keys to identify herbaceous plants.

## Learning Resources

Required:

1. Mammals of the Great Lakes Region, 3rd edition (2017). Allen Kurta. The University of Michigan Press. **ISBN 10 0472053450 ISBN 13 978-0472053452**
2. Photo Field Guide to the Reptiles and Ampbians of the Great Lakes Region (2015). S.D. Gillingwater and A.S. McKenzie. St. Thomas Field Naturalist Club.
3. Peterson Field Guide to Animal Tracks: Third Edition Paperback. Olaus J. Murie , Dr. Mark Elbroch. 2005, ISBN 9780618517435
4. Newcomb's Wildflower Guide: An ingenious new key system for quick, positive field identification of the wildflowers, flowering shrubs and vines of Northeastern and North Central North America. Newcomb, L., Morrison, G., & Clement, R. C. (1977). **ISBN-10: 0316604429, ISBN-13: 978-0316604420**
5. National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America, Sixth Edition (2008). Jon L. Dunn, Jonathan Alderfer. **ISBN 9781426208287.**

**OR**

The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America (2003). David Allen Sibley. (First or Second edition). Alfred A. Knoff Inc. **ISBN 9780679451204.**

4. Waterproof notebook (available in Bookstore)

**Recommended:**

1. Binoculars

Costs for learning resources can be found on the Campus Store website, using the links below, or by visiting the Campus Store location at your campus.

- Sutherland: <https://www.bkstr.com/sfleming-sutherlandstore/home>
- Frost: <https://www.bkstr.com/sfleming-froststore/home>

## Assessment Summary

Assessment Task	Percentage
Labs	38%
Quizzes	62%

## Student Success: Policies and Procedures

Mutually, faculty and learners will support and adhere to college Academic Regulations, and Student Rights and Responsibilities. The following policies and guidelines have been developed to support the learning process.

Please click on the link for information about:

- [Academic Integrity \(2-201A\)](https://department.flemingcollege.ca/hr/attachment/7750/download)  
(<https://department.flemingcollege.ca/hr/attachment/7750/download>)
- [Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities \(3-341\)](https://department.flemingcollege.ca/hr/attachment/5619/download)  
(<https://department.flemingcollege.ca/hr/attachment/5619/download>)
- [Grading and Academic Standing \(2-201C\)](https://department.flemingcollege.ca/hr/attachment/7752/download)  
(<https://department.flemingcollege.ca/hr/attachment/7752/download>)
- [Guidelines for Professional Practice: Students and Faculty](https://flemingcollege.ca/PDF/guidelines-for-professional-practice-students-faculty.pdf)  
(<https://flemingcollege.ca/PDF/guidelines-for-professional-practice-students-faculty.pdf>)
- [Student Rights and Responsibilities \(5-506\)](https://department.flemingcollege.ca/hr/attachment/269/download)  
(<https://department.flemingcollege.ca/hr/attachment/269/download>)

If you will need academic accommodations (for example if you have a learning disability, mental health condition such as anxiety or depression or if you had an IEP in high school), please contact the [Accessible Education Services \(AES\)](https://department.flemingcollege.ca/aes/) department (<https://department.flemingcollege.ca/aes/>) to meet with a counsellor.

**Alternate accessible formats of learning resources and materials will be provided, on request.**

## Program Standards

The **Ministry of Colleges and Universities** oversees the development and the review of standards for programs of instruction. The **Ministry of Labour Training and Skills Development** oversees the development and the review of standards for programs of instruction for Apprenticeship training in the province of Ontario. Each college is required to ensure that its programs and program delivery are consistent with these standards, and must assist students to achieve these essential outcomes.

This course contributes to Program Standards as defined by the [Ministry of Colleges and Universities](#) (MCU). Program standards apply to all similar programs of instruction offered by colleges across the province. Each program standard for a postsecondary program includes the following elements:

- **Vocational standards** (the vocationally specific learning outcomes which apply to the program of instruction in question);
- **Essential employability skills** (the essential employability skills learning outcomes which apply to all programs of instruction); and
- **General education requirement** (the requirement for general education in postsecondary programs of instruction that contribute to the development of citizens who are conscious of the diversity, complexity and richness of the human experience; and, the society in which they live and work).

Collectively, these elements outline the essential skills and knowledge that a student must reliably demonstrate in order to graduate from the program. For further information on the standards for your program, follow the MCU link ([www.tcu.gov.on.ca/pepg/audiences/colleges/progstan/](http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/pepg/audiences/colleges/progstan/)).

## Detail Plan

<b>Term:</b>	2025 Spring
<b>Faculty:</b>	Keith Munro - Keith.Munro@flemingcollege.ca Julia Scarlett - julia.scarlett@flemingcollege.ca Keegan Mckitterick - Keegan.Mckitterick@flemingcollege.ca
<b>Program Co-ordinator or Equivalent:</b>	Paul Ashley - paul.ashley@flemingcollege.ca
<b>Dean (or Chair):</b>	Jennifer Hermer - jennifer.hermer@flemingcollege.ca

## Learning Plan

Wks/Hrs Units	Topics, Resources, Learning, Activities	Learning Outcomes	Assessment
Week 1	Lecture: Course introduction, how to observe and identify wildlife and wildlife sign, and how to take proper field notes. Lab: No lab.	1,2,3,4	Guide to Field Notes quiz (2%)
Week 2	Lecture: Frogs and toads of Ontario. Lab: Campus wildlife walk (field notebook entry).	1,2,3,4	Initial field notebook entry evaluation (5%).
Week 3	Lecture: Salamanders of Ontario. Lab: Marsh monitoring amphibian surveys (field notebook entry).	1,2,3,4	
Week 4	Lecture: Introduction to bird identification. Lab: Tree Swallow Nest Box Survey #1.	1,2,3,4	

<b>Wks/Hrs Units</b>	<b>Topics, Resources, Learning, Activities</b>	<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
Week 5	Lecture: Learning to listen - basics of bird song identification. Lab: Describing birds based on visual characteristics (field notebook entry).	1,3,4	Amphibian Visual/Call ID and Ecology Quiz (10%).
Week 6	Lecture: Birds of Ontario - Non-Passerines. Lab: Tree Swallow Nest Box Survey #2.	1,2,3,4	
Week 7	Lecture: Birds of Ontario - Passerines. Lab: Herbaceous plant identification (field notebook entry).	1,3,4,5	Mid-term field notebook evaluation (10%).
Week 8	Independent Learning Week		
Week 9	Lecture: Turtles of Ontario. Lab: Bird survey methods (field notebook entry).	1,2,3,4	Non-Passerine Visual ID and Ecology Quiz (10%).
Week 10	Lecture: Lizard and Snakes of Ontario. Lab: Tree Swallow Nest Box Survey #3.	1,2,3,4	Passerine Visual ID and Ecology Quiz (10%). Tree Swallow nest box survey datasheets due (5%).
Week 11	Lecture: Mammals of Ontario - Part 1. Lab: Mammal skull characteristics and identification.	1,2,4	Non-Passerine Song ID Quiz (5%).
Week 12	Lecture: Mammals of Ontario - Part 2. Lab: Mammal sign identification (field notebook entry).	1,2,3,4	Passerine Song ID Quiz (5%).
Week 13	Lecture: Species at risk in Ontario. Lab: Introduction to citizen science.	1,2,3,4,5	Reptile Visual ID and Ecology Quiz (5%).
Week 14	Lecture: No lecture. Lab: Extended lab period field trip (field notebook entry).	1,2,3,4,5	Mammal Visual ID and Ecology Quiz (10%). Field notebooks final evaluation (15%).
Week 15	Lecture: No lecture. Lab: Mammal Skull ID Quiz (in-lab) and the Wildlife Obs Photography Awards.	2	Mammal Skull ID Quiz (5%). Citizen science assignment due (3%).

## Assessment Requirements

<b>Assessment Task</b>	<b>Date/Weeks</b>	<b>Course Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Guide to Field Notes quiz (2%).	Week 1	3	2%
Initial field notebook entry evaluation (5%)	Week 2	1,2,3,4	5%
Amphibian Visual/Call ID and Ecology Quiz (10%)	Week 5	1,2	10%

Assessment Task	Date/Weeks	Course Learning Outcome	Percentage
Field notebook mid-term evaluation (10%)	Week 7	1,2,3,4,5	10%
Non-Passerine Visual ID and Ecology Quiz (10%)	Week 9	1,2	10%
Passerine Visual ID and Ecology Quiz (10%) Tree Swallow nest box survey datasheets due (5%)	Week 10	1,2,3,4	15%
Non-Passerine Song ID Quiz (5%)	Week 11	1	5%
Passerine Song ID Quiz (5%)	Week 12	1	5%
Reptile Visual ID and Ecology Quiz (5%)	Week 13	1	5%
Mammal Visual ID and Ecology Quiz (10%) Field notebooks final evaluation (15%)	Week 14	1,2,3,4,5	25%
Mammal Skull ID Quiz (5%) Citizen science assignment due (3%)	Week 15	1,2,3,4,5	8%

## Exemption Contact

Paul Ashley F&W Program Coordinator (email: [paul.ashley@flemingcollege.ca](mailto:paul.ashley@flemingcollege.ca))

## Prior Learning and Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

PLAR uses tools to help learners reflect on, identify, articulate, and demonstrate past learning which has been acquired through study, work and other life experiences and which is not recognized through formal transfer of credit mechanisms. PLAR options include authentic assessment activities designed by faculty that may include challenge exams, portfolio presentations, interviews, and written assignments. Learners may also be encouraged and supported to design an individual documentation package that would meet the learning requirements of the course. Any student who wishes to have any prior learning acquired through life and work experience assessed, so as to translate it into a college credit, may initiate the process by applying through the Registrar's office. For more information please click on the following link: <http://flemingcollege.ca/admissions/prior-learning-assessment-and-recognition>

## Course Specific Policies and Procedures

It is the responsibility of the student to retain this course outline for future reference. Course outlines may be required to support applications for advanced standing and credit transfer to other educational institutions, portfolio development, PLAR and accreditation with professional associations.

**Synchronous sessions may be recorded. As a result, your image, voice, name, personal views and opinions, and course work may be collected under legal authority of section 2 of the Ontario Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology Act, 2002. This information will be used for the purpose of supporting student**

learning. Any questions about this collection can be directed to the Privacy and Policy Officer at [freedomofinformation@flamingcollege.ca](mailto:freedomofinformation@flamingcollege.ca) or by mail to 599 Brealey Drive, Peterborough, ON K9J 7B1.

## ATTENDANCE

- **Absences:** Absences will be dealt with by the professor in accordance with Fleming College's Class Absence Operating Procedure.
- **Lateness:** Students who are late for class are a disruption and have a negative impact on the learning environment. For reasons relating to classroom management and/or laboratory/field safety, late students may be refused entry.

## ASSESSMENTS (e.g. Assignments, Tests, etc.)

- **Late Assessments:** Unless otherwise communicated by the professor, all assignments are due by the end of the lab period in the week indicated in the course outline. If an assessment (e.g. assignment, quiz, etc.) is not submitted on the specified due date and time, a grade of ZERO will be assigned. An individual extension of the due date may be granted at the discretion of the professor.
- **Testing:** Testing may occur in the classroom, lab, field or the Frost Campus Testing Centre.
- **Releasing of Grades:** All assessment results will be recorded in the D2L grade book and released to the students within two weeks after the assessment due date (unless otherwise stated).
- **Academic Issue Resolution:** If there is a concern or question about the delivery or marking of an assessment, the student must contact the faculty within one week of the release of the grade with evidence (e.g. textbook, reputable website, lecture notes) to provide rationale for their position. For further information please visit the Fleming College Academic Issue Resolution webpage: <https://department.flemingcollege.ca/asa/ar/>.
- **Make-up Assessments:** Make-up arrangements for assessments are not normally allowed but in exceptional circumstances may be provided in accordance with Fleming College's *Class Absence Operating Procedure* and at the discretion of the professor. When a make-up assessment is approved but cannot be reproduced in the original format, an alternate assessment may be administered to satisfy the learning outcome(s).

## FINAL GRADES

- Final course grades are based on the level of academic achievement according to the Learning Plan and Assessment Requirements stated in the course outline. Faculty will not offer additional assignments or credit recovery to individual students beyond those cited in this course outline or established in accordance with Fleming College's *Class Absence Operating Procedure*.

## FIELD WORK AND FIELD TRIPS

- Appropriate attire, as determined by the course professor, is mandatory for field trips and for field exercises. Scheduled field exercises are usually conducted regardless of weather conditions. For more specific information on requirements, please see D2L or the professor/instructor responsible.

## STUDENT BEHAVIOUR

- Student behaviour in all learning environments (e.g. class, lab, field, on-line, placement, etc.) must abide by Fleming College's Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy .

## **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

- All electronic devices (e.g. cell phones, lap tops, etc.), except those approved by Accessible Education Services or the professor, must be turned off or silenced for the duration of the class unless otherwise instructed by the professor.

## **STUDENT ACCOMMODATIONS**

- Students who require accommodations under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA 2005) should bring their accommodation plans to the professor for discussion at the beginning of the semester, or as soon as possible if plans are not available at the start of the semester.

## **ACADEMIC FRAUD/DISHONESTY**

- Misrepresentation, plagiarism, fabrication, deception, cheating, bribery/paid services, sabotage, or impersonation are not tolerated and will be dealt with by the professor in accordance with Fleming College's *Academic Regulations Policy*.

## **D2L COURSE MANAGEMENT**

- Course outlines, course grade books, and all relevant lecture and lab materials will be posted on D2L in a timely manner.

## **UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES**

- In exceptional circumstances, the faculty reserves the right to modify the course sequence in this outline to facilitate the learning of the students.