

**NR 5424 Urban Wildlife**  
Offered: Spring Semester

**INSTRUCTOR:** Megan M. Draheim, Ph.D., [mdraheim@vt.edu](mailto:mdraheim@vt.edu)

**REQUIRED TEXT:** Adams, Clark E., and Lindsey, Kieran J. 2009. *Urban Wildlife Management*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. ISBN-13: 978-1439804605

**RECOMMENDED TEXT:** Beatley, Timothy. 2010. *Biophilic Cities: Integrating Nature into Urban Design and Planning*. ISBN: 978-1597267151

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

For the first time in history, more people are living in urban areas than rural areas, and the number of people who live in cities is projected to only increase over time throughout the world. This has had a profound impact on both human and wildlife populations. Many assume that urban areas are inhospitable to non-human animal life, but in fact not only do some wildlife species survive in cities, they can thrive. Cities also hold great promise as places where biodiversity can be increased, restored, and protected. Humans and wildlife living close to each other has both positive and negative effects. On the positive side, people can directly enjoy and appreciate wildlife close to home, and as a consequence feel a closer connection to the natural world. The flip side of this is that conflicts between humans and wildlife are on the rise. While urbanization has created new challenges and opportunities for wildlife professionals, most have little or no special training in this field. This course will look at multiple facets of urban wildlife management and conservation, including the biological, ecological, social, and political.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:**

This course will utilize a mostly student-directed learning format, taking into account student experiences and interests to determine the subject matter for discussion and the projects.

Grades will be computed on the following basis:

- Group project #1: 25%
- Group project #2: 20%
- Individual project: 20%
- Peer Review: 20%
- Participation: 15%