ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/2026

General information	
Name of the integrated course	**PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS AND PARASITIC DISEASES IN WILDLIFE**
Integrated teaching modules	**Prevention of infectious diseases of wildlife.** **Prevention of parasitic diseases of wildlife.**
Degree course	Animal Sciences (L38)
Academic Year	III
European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)	5 (ECTS lessons: 3; ECTS exe/lab/tutor: 2)
Language	Italian
Period of teaching	II semester (02/03/2026 – 19/06/2026)
Attendance	Mandatory

Teacher	**e-mail address**	**phone**
Elena Circella	elena.circella@uniba.it	+39 0805713116
Riccardo Paolo Lia	riccardopaolo.lia@uniba.it	+39 080 5713802

Headquarters	Campus of Veterinary Medicine, S.P. per Casamassima km 3, 70010 Valenzano (Ba)
Virtual rooms	Microsoft Teams (access code: sxjqr06)
Tutoring (time and day)	Elena Circella: Tuesday and Wednesday: 11.30 – 13.30; 15.00 - 16.30 Riccardo Paolo Lia: Tuesday and Thursday: 15.00 - 16.30

Syllabus	
Learning Objectives	The educational objectives of the course are represented by the achievement of a knowledge of the main infectious and parasitic diseases of wild species and the methods of prevention.
Course prerequisites	The student must have acquired basic knowledge for the approach and containment of wild species. To take the examination test, it is necessary to have successfully taken the Biosafety and Health Management examination.

U.O. Didattica e servizi agli studenti
Strada prov.le 62 per Casamassima, km. 3,00
70010 Valenzano (Bari) - Italy
Tel. (+39) 080 5713944-41-46
didattica.veterinaria@uniba.it

Contents of the teaching	
Prevention of infectious diseases of wildlife: **Elena Circella** **Lectures ECTS: 2** **Hours: 16**	Risks of infection and how infectious diseases spread to wild animals in natural environments and wildlife centres. Preventive measures against certain infections most relevant to wildlife: avian influenza, West Nile disease, avian smallpox, distemper, parvovirus infections, European brown hare syndrome (EBHS), avian cholera, salmonellosis, botulism.
Prevention of parasitic diseases of wildlife: **Riccardo Paolo Lia** **Lectures ECTS: 1** **Hours: 8**	Interaction between factors contributing to a parasitic disease, including those of zoonosic interest and their risk in public health; protozoal infection in wild animals; trichinellosis and echinococcosis; mange mites and miasi infestation in wild carnivores and ungulates; tick and pathogen-transmitted infestation and "tick borne-diseases" in wildlife.
Practical activities: **Prevention of infectious diseases of wildlife** **ECTS: 1** **Prevention of parasitic diseases of wildlife** **ECTS: 1**	Activities at the Regional Wildlife Rescue Centre (OFR): collection of biological samples for the diagnosis of infectious diseases in wild animals. Identification of risk factors for the spread of infectious diseases. Technical visits in natural environments. Activities at the Regional Wildlife Rescue Centre (OFR): collection of biological samples for the diagnosis of parasitic diseases in wild animals. Technical visits in natural environments.

Biosafety rules for the attendance of practical activities.	Access to laboratories, stables and isolation unit of the veterinary teaching hospital will be allowed only to students wearing protective clothing (disposable coats and gloves and, when required, also footwear) and that have read the biosafety manual.

Materail for the personal study	
Books and bibliography	Simonetta A.M. e Dessì-Fulgheri F. Principi e tecniche di gestione faunistico venatoria – Greentime Spa, Bologna - 1998 -Thomas N.J., Hunter D.B., Atkinson C.T. Infectious diseases of wild birds Blackwell Publishing Ltd, Oxford, UK, 2007. -Taylor M.A., Coop R., Wall R. (2022). "Parassitologia e Malattie Parassitarie degli Animali", Edizione italiana, EMSI. -Petretti F. (2003). "Gestione della fauna. Il management delle popolazioni animali negli ambienti naturali, agricoli e urbanizzati". Ed. Edagricole Bologna.
Additional materials	Notes from lectures. Study notes "Laboratory diagnosis of the main diseases of animals" of R.P. Lia available online (www.bariparasitogy.it)

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Biosafety rules for the attendance of practical activities.	Access to practical activities will be allowed only to students wearing personal protective equipment (gowns, single-use gloves and, when required, masks) and that have read the biosafety manual.

Work schedule			
Hours			
Total	Lectures	Hands on (Laboratory, working groups, seminars, field trips)	Individual study
125	*24*	*20*	*81*
ECTS			
5	*3*	*2*	*/*

Teaching strategy	
	The lectures will take place in the classroom, using personal computers connected to the projector, so as to show, at the same time as the explanation, power point slides and explanatory videos. Seminars on specialised topics will be held. The practical exercises will take place at the Regional Fauna Observatory (OFR) and will be aimed at the recognition of different wild species, the collection of biological samples for monitoring of infectious agents and for diagnostic purposes and the identification of the most suitable prophylactic interventions to prevent infectious diseases.

Expected learning outcomes	
Knowledge and understanding ability	At the end of the course, the student will have knowledge and understanding ability related to: • Basic knowledge of the main infectious and parasitic diseases of wild species. • Basic knowledge of the main prevention methods to prevent the spread of infectious diseases in recovery centres and natural areas
Applied knowledge and understanding ability	At the end of the course, the student will be able to: • Know the main methods of sampling in wild animals • Know the most relevant methods for monitoring the wildlife health
Soft skills	**Autonomy of judgment** • At the end of the course, the student should be able to recognize the main infectious and parasitic diseases and to express his opinion about some hypotheses of prevention and control. **Communication skills** • The student should acquire the skills and correct scientific terminology to properly relate with wildlife technicians and veterinarians. **Capacity of self-learning** • The student should acquire the ability to improve his knowledge independently through further studies, more advanced courses and training periods at wildlife recovery centres

Assessment and feedback	
Methods of assessment	The exam of the course allows the acquisition of 5 ECTS of those included in the study plan. The verification of results will be performed by oral examination assessing that the student must be able to:
Evaluation criteria	• *Knowledge and understanding ability:* o know the main infectious and parasitic diseases most relevant for the wildlife • *Applied knowledge and understanding ability:*

	○ know the main methods of preventing infectious and parasitic diseases to be adopted for wildlife • *Autonomy of judgment* ○ express own opinion independently • *Communication skills* ○ have a good ability to present the proposed topics • *Capacity to continue learning* ○ answer correctly to the proposed issues
Criteria for assessment and attribution of the final mark	The outcome of the partial examinations of "Prevention of infectious diseases of wildlife" and "Prevention of parasitic diseases of wildlife" will contribute to the determination of the final mark. The final mark is the result of the collegial judgment relating to the two partial tests in which the student must demonstrate that he has acquired a knowledge of the proposed topics. The vote is expressed in thirtieth, with a minimum vote to pass the exam equal to 18/30. The highest coring will be attributed to students with good exhibition skills and able to use scientific terminology correctly.
Other comments	

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