

NRES 211

Intro to Conservation Biology

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This is an introductory course open to non-majors.

Course Learning Objectives:

- Understand and define the concepts, components and interactions of conservation biology.
- Gain a broad and substantive understanding of the goals, objectives, methods, and challenges facing conservation biology.
- Empower students to become socially, culturally and politically engaged in conservation issues/policies.
- Acquire skills to sufficiently collect pertinent data in regards to biological conservation and then effectively analyze & interpret that data.
- Analyze and interpret herpetological species that are in decline or invasive due to human intervention.
- Communication and interpretation of contemporary writings and reports concerning conservation issues to a variety of audiences in written and oral forms.

Students will leave the course with:

- Knowledge of the principles for conservation and biodiversity.
- A strong background in basic conservation biology concepts and their relevance in today's world
- An appreciation of conservation and biodiversity science as a dynamic and global field.
- A sound understanding of biodiversity, its ecological, economical and ethical significance to mankind worldwide.
- Ability to utilize critical thinking to form intelligent opinions and solutions when confronting conservation & biodiversity situations/scenarios.

Text, Readings & Supportive Materials:

TEXT: Fundamentals of Conservation Biology 3rd Ed. 2007

This is an excellent text that I recommend for this class.

Readings will be assigned from contemporary media.

Additionally, I will furnish some hand-outs (electronically via "Blackboard") that you will be required to read, review and discuss.

You will be required to obtain (from a library or purchase) one book for your class project/presentation.

Class:

We will meet at 11:00 am to 12:15 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. Regular meetings will be held in #163 Hardin Hall (north wing). Attendance and efficient note taking at all lectures/presentations/discussions is extremely important. "Powerpoints" will be a guide and outline for my orations & verbal explanations/discussions. I will post a pdf of all 'Powerpoints' on 'Blackboard' directly after presenting them. In addition I would like every student to participate in discussions. Professionalism in UNL's School of Natural Resources requires students to attend lectures and act accordingly in those lecture sessions.

An important item --- This course is to be a pleasant and rewarding learning experience for all involved, so I will be flexible and try to incorporate all of your comments/suggestions to insure this happens.

Grading:

Based on a percentage of total possible points (600) which are achieved as follows:

- ◆ ~10 Short written assignments (10pts @) = 100 pts.
- ◆ Classroom Discussion participation = 50 pts.
- ◆ Exam #1 = 100 pts.
- ◆ Exam #2 = 100 pts.
- ◆ Exam #3 = 100 pts.
- ◆ Book review and discussion with an oral presentation = 150 pts.

UNL's Fifteenth Week Policy states: "Final examinations for full semester classes are to be given ONLY at the regularly scheduled time as published in the Official Schedule of Classes or at another time DURING FINALS WEEK mutually agreeable to all concerned." The only examinations that may be given during the last week of classes are: laboratory practical examinations, make-up or repeat examinations, and self-paced examinations. However, the following must be applied: "Projects, papers, and speeches scheduled for completion during the last week (15th week) of classes must have been assigned in writing by the end of the eighth week. This stipulation refers to the project and its scope, but not the topic. Moreover, ALL requirements, except for the final exam, must be completed no later than Wednesday of the fifteenth week. However, if the instructor has assigned a project, paper, or speech by the eighth week to replace the final, then the project, paper, or speech may be completed any time in the 15th week or finals. The exception to this is a class meeting one day a week on a Thursday or Friday for which all policies/requirements are shifted to either a Thursday or Friday, respectively."

Major Assignment:

A written paper and oral presentation is required. This assignment will entail book review of an outside reading material and critical thinking. Detailed descriptions and requirements of this assignment will be on the 'Blackboard' site the first week of class. You should schedule ample time for the preparation of this assignment.

Book for review selection is due XXXX; Written review, interpretation and discussion due March 11th. Oral presentations of book review and discussion are XXXXXX. A deduction of 10 points per day will be subtracted for tardiness on all assignments.

Academic Dishonesty:

Please read Section 4 of UNL's Student Code of Conduct for definitions and warnings against cheating and plagiarism. UNL's policy on Academic Dishonesty states that a student may receive a sanction as severe as removal from a course with a failing grade for any type of Academic Dishonesty. Plagiarism not only includes copying someone else's work "word-for-word" but includes using statements, studies or principles without proper citation. You must acknowledge the ideas of others including your classmates in all of your written work and reports. Failing to properly cite ideas is as critical as copying off the internet.