Conservation Biology (BIOL*3130)
Winter 2017

Introduction

This course explores the 'how' and the 'why' of conservation biology. The emphasis will be mostly on the 'how', examining the biological basis for the management of wild, living resources from both terrestrial and aquatic systems. This information will be derived from the arenas of biology, ecology, policy, economics, and law. Topics will include an overview of processes related to resource population abundance and dynamics, theory and practice of sustained-yield harvesting, and conservation and restoration of endangered species and/or ecosystems. Both theoretical and applied aspects of resource management will be emphasized. For the 'why' component of this course, we will be reading and discussing chapters from the conservation classic "Wilderness and the American Mind" by Roderick Nash. This book explores our murky relationship with the concept of 'wilderness', and its relationship to conservation initiatives (or lack thereof). Lectures, discussions, and other in-class activities will introduce information that is relevant to these issues.

Pre-Requisites

Students must have completed all prerequisites as described in the UG Academic Calendar. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Instructor
Dr. Andrew MacDougall
Office: 2459 Sciences Building
Office Hours: by appointment.

Meeting Times

T, Th 10-1120

Course Materials [Required]

Wilderness and the American Mind. Roderick Nash (paper back).

Web Site

This course will make extensive use of the course website. Consequently, **you are responsible for all posted information including lecture material and announcements**; please check regularly.

Course Work

Exams: **There will be two in-class tests. The first [prior to the winter break] will consist of multiple choice questions; the second [second last week of classes] will consist of short-answer/short-essay questions. The final exam will be a combination of multiple choice, short-answer, and short-essay questions. There may be problems involving calculations.**

Leading class discussion of the Nash book: The class will be divided into 17 groups, with each group taking a turn to lead **20 minute maximum** class discussions on a chapter of the Nash book. Groupings will be determined during the first week of class.

Grading

Nash group work: 15%
Midterm 1: 20%
Midterm 2: 25%
Final Exam: 40%

-I **will not** accept late assignments without documentation from your doctor or program counselor.
-The grading scale is detailed in the University of Guelph Undergraduate Calendar.
-Students who need accommodations because of a disability should speak to me at the first class meeting.
-The TA and instructor will share grading duties.

Attendance

You are expected to attend each lecture and be ready to contribute, having read the appropriate material. There may be divergent opinions expressed in class – all debate and disagreement must be conducted in a civilized and courteous manner.

Tentative Class Schedule

1. Week One: What is conservation biology?
2. Week Two: The Creation and Maintenance of Biodiversity
3. Week Three: Threats to Biodiversity
4. Week Four: Conservation Genetics
5. Week Five: Approaches to Solving Problems - species
6. Week Six: Approaches to Solving Problems - ecosystems
7. Week Seven: Approaches to Solving Problems – protected areas
8. Week Seven: Approaches to Solving Problems – restoration ecology
9. Week Eight: Sustainable Development
10. Week Nine: Policy
11. Week Ten: Future Challenges
12. Week Eleven: Future Challenges/In-class Discussion

Copies of out-of-class assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Absence and Illness

If you are absent from classes during the semester, you will be expected to make up missed lecture on your own. When an assignment is missed, you must notify the instructor as soon as possible. If requesting academic consideration on medical or compassionate grounds, be prepared to provide supporting documentation. Be sure to obtain a written statement of your revised grade evaluation

from the instructor. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration:
http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and expects all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar
http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml

Recording of Materials
Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded in any electronic media without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer.

Course Evaluation information (from the CCS website)

CCS now provides the U of G Online Course Evaluation System in a secure, online environment. End of semester course and instructor evaluations provide students the opportunity to have their comments and opinions form part of the information used by Promotion and Tenure Committees in evaluating the faculty member's contributions in the area of teaching.

Course evaluations are now conducted through this web site. Login with your central email account login ID and password.
https://courseeval.uoguelph.ca/CEVAL_LOGIN.php

Occasionally course evaluations are conducted in class.

Please Note:
Instructors do **NOT** receive evaluations until the end of exam period. Furthermore, evaluations are anonymous, unless you specifically indicate you want to acknowledge your comments