



BIO 351

Conservation Biology

Semester: Winter, 2015

Days:

Room:

Lab – day: Thursday, 4:00PM- 6:30PM

Lab–Room: A 2145

Number of credits: 3

Instructor: Graeme Gissing

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Phone: 403-410-2000 x 5940

Office: G 2204

Office hours: By appointment

Prerequisite:

Course Description:

This course will focus on applications of ecology to conservation and sustainability. Emphasis will be placed on human-environment interactions and their implications for biodiversity, natural resource management, and endangered ecosystems and species.

Further Course Information:

This course will provide students with a foundation in conservation biology theory and explore applied strategies to contemporary conservation issues and concerns at a number of scales including local, national, and global. Students will be encouraged to use theory to formulate their own opinions regarding conservation concerns and potential solutions.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

It is the aim of the course that students acquire the following skills:

1. Students will gain a greater understanding of the role of biodiversity in global ecosystems, contemporary threats to biodiversity, and conservation strategies for preserving both biodiversity and genetic diversity
2. Students will gain a greater understanding of the need and strategies for the conservation of individual species

Important Dates:

First day of classes: January 7, 2015

Registration revision period: January 18, 2015

Last day to request revised examination: March 2, 2015

Last day to withdraw from course: March 20, 2015

Last day to apply for time extension for coursework: March 30, 2015

Last day of classes: April 10, 2015

Final Exam: TBD

Time: TBD

Room: TBD

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3. Students will gain a greater understanding of the need and strategies for the conservation of ecosystems and landscapes
 4. Students will gain a greater understanding of the meaning and implementation of sustainable development practices related to conservation
 5. Students will gain a greater understanding of habitat and wildlife management principles and tools that are used in conservation biology

Outline:

This outline will serve as a general guide to the potential main topics covered. It may change as the semester progresses.

Foundations and History of Conservation Biology

Biodiversity

Habitat Loss, Degradation, and Fragmentation

Overexploitation and Invasive Species

Climate Change

Conservation of Small Populations

Societal Challenges for Conservation, particularly related to Poverty

Conservation Genetics

Restoration Ecology

Sustainable Development

Future Challenges in Conservation Biology

Local Issues in Conservation (Calgary ... Alberta ... Canada)

Requirements:

This course is being conducted as a directed study. As such, the formal requirements of the course will depend on the individual student and the number of students enrolled. However, the general requirements for this course may include the following but are subject to change:

- 1) Attendance at weekly labs which will be classroom format and consist partly of traditional lecture presentations and seminars/workshops
- 2) Active participation in group discussions based on assigned readings and/or activities
- 3) Participations in group discussions and debates regarding case studies relating to conservation issues
- 4) Assignments (see late policy below), Oral Presentations, Poster Presentations
- 5) Quizzes and tests based on readings and assigned material
- 6) Quizzes and tests based on theory lectures

All tests, quizzes, and assignments are announced and/or scheduled in advance with at least one week's notice

Submission of Assignments:

All written assignments are to be printed and handed in as a hard copy unless otherwise instructed. Emailed assignments will **not** be accepted unless specifically asked for as a submission method.

Late Policy: Over the course of term, we will be engaged in a number of projects that require both faculty-student and student-student collaboration that will be turned for a grading. Thus, it will be vital that all parties take responsibility for their part in these activities. I will provide clear objectives, adequate time, and necessary assistance for completing these assignments. As students, you will be responsible for working together and managing your time such that you are prepared for due dates. This will not only help improve your grade, but also will make for a more pleasant interaction with me and your fellow students. I realize that certain circumstances prevent students from turning in individual assignments on time and have developed the following late policy to address these rare situations. This policy will apply to all assignments. The late policy will **NOT** cover term tests/exams or the poster term project, all of which **MUST** be turned in / completed on time or a grade of zero will be assigned.

Condition (calendar days include both weekdays and weekends)	Deduction
Assignment was turned in on the same calendar day after the time it was due, or the next calendar day (e.g. Due: Monday, handed in on Tuesday)	20%
Assignment is turned in 2 calendar days after it is due (e.g. Due: Monday, handed in Wednesday)	30%
Assignment is turned in 3 calendar days after it is due (e.g. Due: Friday, handed in on Monday)	40%
Assignment is turned in 4 calendar days after it is due (e.g. Due: Monday, handed in on Friday)	50%
Assignment is turned in 5 or more calendar days after it is due	100%

Attendance:

Regular attendance will be essential for success in this course and is mandatory. Any unannounced in-class assignments, activities, and unannounced in-class quizzes cannot be made up and, if missed, will receive a grade of zero. There will be a grade component for both attendance and participation (see below)

Evaluation:

The following is subject to change

Activity	Percent of Grade
Attendance and Participation	10%
Term Tests (2 at 15% each)	30%
Term Project - Poster Presentation	15%
Poster Proposal and Abstract	5%
Unannounced Quizzes (4 at 2.5% each)	10%
Case Studies and Assignments	30%

Grade Summary:

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

A+	90-100
A	85-89
A-	80-84
B+	77-79
B	73-76
B-	70-72
C+	67-69
C	63-66
C-	60-62
D+	57-59
D	50-56
F	49 and below

Textbooks:

No required text

Policies:

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (Cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, it is highly recommended that they forward all messages from the Ambrose account to the other account.

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may to enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and /or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty. These courses will not appear on the student's transcript. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date, please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a Request to Withdraw from a Course by the **Withdrawal Deadline**, please consult the List of Important Dates. Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund. A grade of "W" will appear on the student's transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a **Revised Examination** Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date, please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to engage in electronically-enabled activities unrelated to the class during a class session. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Please do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a "**Course Extension**" from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date, please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control".

Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar in writing within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal to review final grades. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to give credit to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.

Other

Any added features in the syllabus are optional. You may or may not wish to include elements such as a bibliography, reading list, schedule of lectures/topics, or reporting form.