

University of North Texas at Dallas
Summer 2016 – 5 Week 2
SYLLABUS

BIOL 5325-001: Conservation Biology 3 Hrs

Department of		Life and Health Sciences	School of		Liberal Arts and Sciences
Instructor Name: Irene T. Rodriguez					
Office Location: FH 253					
Office Phone: 972-338-1525					
Email Address: irene.rodriguez@untdallas.edu					
Office Hours: TR 12:00PM - 1:00PM or by appointment at another time					
Course Format/Structure: Face-to-face					
Classroom Location: FH 240					
Class Meeting Days & Times: MoTuWeTh 10:00AM - 11:50AM					
Course Catalog Description:		Principles defining biological diversity at the level of genes, species, and ecosystems; the integration of social, economic, and political factors to achieve conservation goals; threats to biodiversity; management strategies; sustainable development.			
Prerequisites:		Consent of instructor			
Co-requisites:		None			
Required Text:		Primack, R.B. 2012. <i>A Primer of Conservation Biology</i> . Fifth Edition. Sinauer Associates, Inc. Sunderland, MA, U.S.A. ISBN 978-0-87893-623-6			
Recommended Text and References:					
Access to Learning Resources:		UNT Dallas Library: (Founders Hall) phone: (972) 780-1616 web: http://www.untdallas.edu/library e-mail: Library@untdallas.edu UNT Dallas Bookstore: (Building 1) phone: (972) 780-3652 web: http://www.untdallas.edu/bookstore e-mail: untdallas@bkstr.com			
Course Goals or Overview:					
The goal of this course is to provide the student with a broad background in conservation biology, including the social, economic and political factors that affect biodiversity, as well as the management strategies and principles of sustainable development.					
Learning Objectives/Outcomes: At the end of this course, students will be able to:					
1	Understand the principles that determine biological diversity at the level of genes, species, and ecosystems.				
2	Recognize the social, economic, and political factors that affect biodiversity.				
3	Explore conservation strategies and sustainable development, including the role of conservation education.				
4	Be able to locate, evaluate, and organize scientific information, including the use of information technologies.				
5	Improve on written communication skills by using appropriate grammar, vocabulary, and content.				
6	Critically read, analyze, and orally communicate primary scientific data and literature, engaging with others in thoughtful and well-crafted discussions.				

Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class or via class email or Blackboard announcement. Additional readings and activities may be added, these will be noted in the Readings and Activities/Assignments sections.

Timeline	Topics	Related SLO	Readings/Activities/Assignments
7/11	Introduction to Conservation Biology	1	Primack (2012) Chapter 1
7/12	Biodiversity: genes, species, ecosystems	1	Primack (2012) Chapter 2
7/13	Value of Biodiversity: economic, social and political factors	2	Primack (2012) Chapter 3
7/14	Journal Club # 1: • Article 1	4, 5, 6	Student Oral Presentations Summary/discussion 1
7/18	Threats to Biodiversity: human population growth, habitat destruction and fragmentation, overexploitation, invasive species, disease	1, 2	Primack (2012) Chapter 4 – Part I **THESIS SENTENCE DUE**
7/19	Threats to Biodiversity: environmental degradation and pollution, global climate change	1, 2	Primack (2012) Chapter 4 – Part II
7/20	Extinction Rates and Small Populations		Primack (2012) Chapter 5
7/21	Journal Club # 2: • Article 2 • Article 3	4, 5, 6	Student Oral Presentations Summary/discussion 2
7/25	MID-TERM EXAM		Group Exam **BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE**
7/26	Conserving Populations and Species: population biology, legal protection of species	3	Primack (2012) Chapter 6 – Part I
7/27	Conserving Populations and Species: establishing new populations, <i>ex situ</i> conservation strategies	3	Primack (2012) Chapter 6 – Part II
7/28	Journal Club # 3 • Article 4 • Article 5	4, 5, 6	Student Oral Presentations Summary/discussion 3
8/1	Protected Areas: classification and prioritization	3	Primack (2012) Chapter 7 – Part I **ROUGH DRAFT DUE**
8/2	Protected Areas: design and management	3	Primack (2012) Chapter 7 – Part II
8/3	Conservation Outside Protected Areas	3	Primack (2012) Chapter 8
8/4	Journal Club # 4 • Article 6 • Article 7	4, 5, 6	Student Oral Presentations Summary/discussion 4
8/8	Sustainable Development: local, national and international levels	3	Primack (2012) Chapter 9 – Part I **FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE**
8/9	Sustainable Development: funding for conservation and conservation education	3	Primack (2012) Chapter 9 – Part II
8/10	Complete Course Content / Review for Final Exam		
8/11	FINAL EXAM		Comprehensive Exam

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

Attendance/Participation – You are required to attend and participate in each and every class. Five participation points per session will be given when the student effectively contributes to the class discussion.

Student Oral Presentation – Each student will orally communicate his/her assigned article and coordinate its discussion in class.

Journal Club Summaries/Discussions – There will be four Journal Club sessions. Each and every student will prepare a one page summary of the article(s) before the Journal Club session and will turn it in at the beginning of the class; it will be worth 10 points. During the class, each student will write a discussion on the main points presented and will turn this in at the end of the class; it will be worth additional 10 points.

Research Paper – Each *graduate student* will locate, critically read, analyze and prepare a written review of a current topic in Conservation Biology that should be approved by the instructor. This assignment consists of four items that should be submitted electronically to the instructor's e-mail: 1- a thesis sentence that you will submit for approval; 2- a bibliography with at least two-peer reviewed and one web references; 3 - a rough draft of the research paper that will be returned to the student to make corrections; and 4 - the final version of the research paper. Detailed Research Paper Guidelines will be provided by the instructor on the first day of classes.

Exams – You will be given two in-class examinations. Each exam is worth 100 points, and will consist of a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay items. Attendance is required for both exams.

Grading Matrix: (sample given)

Instrument	Measures SLO	Number and Value	Total points
Attendance/Participation	6	14 at 5 points each	70
Student Oral Presentation	6	1 per student	50
Journal Club Summaries/Discussions	4, 5	4 at 20 points each	80
Research Paper	4, 5, 6	1 per graduate student	100
Mid-Term Exam	1, 2	1 per student	100
Final Exam	1, 2, 3	1 per student	100
TOTAL:			500

Grade Determination

A = 450 – 500 pts; i.e. 90% or better

B = 400 – 449 pts; i.e. 80 – 89 %

C = 350 – 399 pts; i.e. 70 – 79 %

D = 300 – 349 pts, i.e. 60 – 69 %

F = 299 pts or below; i.e. less than 60%

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance): The University of North Texas at Dallas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations must first register with the Disability Services Office (DSO) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the DSO will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, DSO notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet/communicate with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Disability Services Office website at <http://www.untDallas.edu/disability>. You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at UNTDdisability@untDallas.edu or at Founders Hall, room 204. (UNTD Policy 7.004)

Course Evaluation Policy: Student's evaluations of teaching effectiveness is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT Dallas. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider students' evaluations to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Assignment Policy: Assignments are intended to reinforce material covered in lecture, and prepare you for the exams. Collaborative efforts on completing the assignments are encouraged so long as all member of the collaboration contribute equally. While collaborations are encouraged, each student must submit their own work, which **cannot** be identical to the work submitted by the other members of the collaboration. As with all other graded assessments, cheating will not be tolerated. Assignments should be turned in on time, therefore, late assignments will not be accepted (except if the student obtains prior authorization by the instructor or provides valid documentation – e.g., doctor's excuse).

Exam Policy: Exams should be taken as scheduled. You will NOT be allowed to leave the classroom and return during the exam (i.e., go to the restroom before the exam!). Make-up exams will be allowed for documented emergencies only (See Student Handbook) and they will be administered during the class period **preceding** the regular exam date.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity (Policy 7.002) at http://www.untDallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/pdf/policy/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic_Integrity.pdf Refer to the Student Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct at http://www.untDallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/hds0041/pdf/7_001_student_code_of_conduct_may_2014.pdf Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. In addition, all academic work turned in for this class, including exams, papers and written assignments must include the following statement: "*On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance that violates the UNTD Academic Integrity Policy.*"

Bad Weather Policy: Campus facilities will close and operations will be suspended when adverse weather and/or safety hazards exist on the UNTD campus or if travel to the campus is deemed dangerous as the result of ice, sleet or snow. In the event of a campus closure, the Marketing and Communication Department will report closure information to all appropriate major media by 7 a.m. That department will also update the UNTD website, Facebook and Twitter with closing information as soon as it is possible. For more information please refer to <http://www.untDallas.edu/police/resources/notifications>

Attendance and Participation Policy: Participation in class discussion is essential in this course, thus **attendance is required** for each and every session of this course. The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Please refer to Policy 7.005 Student Attendance at <http://www.untDallas.edu/hr/upol>

Diversity/Tolerance Policy: Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive and inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Dean of Students as the instructor deems appropriate. (UNTD Policy 7.001)