

University of North Texas at Dallas
Spring 2015
SYLLABUS

BIOL5325D.090: Conservation Biology: 3 Hrs	
Department of Life and Health Sciences	Division of Liberal Arts and Life Sciences
Instructor Name:	Dr. Irene T. Rodriguez
Office Location:	Room 253, Founders Hall (DAL2)
Office Phone:	972-338-1525
Email Address:	Irene.Rodriguez@untdallas.edu
Office Hours:	Monday: 3:30 – 5:30 pm; Tuesday and Thursday: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm; or by appointment
Virtual Office Hours:	N/A
Classroom Location:	DAL1 room 248
Class Meeting Days & Times:	Monday 5:30 pm – 8:20 pm
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:	Admission to M. Ed. program or 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
Access to Learning Resources:	UNT Dallas Library: phone: 972.338.1616 e-mail: UNTDLibrary@unt.edu web: http://www.untdallas.edu/library UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652 e-mail: untdallas@bkstr.com web: http://www.untdallas.edu/bookstore
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:	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Assessment Plan:	
	Student learning outcomes will be assessed by written review of primary literature, oral presentation and discussion of current topics in conservation biology, and course content examinations.

Course Outline and Schedule

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes will be communicated by the instructor in class.

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	CHAPTER
1	Jan 26	Introduction to Conservation Biology	1
2	Feb 2	Biodiversity: genes, species, ecosystems	2
3	Feb 9	Value of Biodiversity: economic, social and political factors	3
4	Feb 16	Threats to Biodiversity: human population growth, habitat destruction and fragmentation, overexploitation, invasive species, disease	4
5	Feb 23	Threats to Biodiversity: environmental degradation and pollution, global climate change	4
6	Mar 2	EXAM 1	Chapters 1 - 4
7	Mar 9	Extinction rates and small populations	5
8	Mar 16	<i>SPRING BREAK</i>	
9	Mar 23	Conserving Populations and Species: population biology, legal protection of species	6
10	Mar 30	Conserving Populations and Species: establishing new populations, <i>ex situ</i> conservation strategies	6
11	Apr 6	EXAM 2	Chapters 5 - 6
12	Apr 13	Protected Areas	7
13	Apr 20	Conservation Outside Protected Areas	8
14	Apr 27	Sustainable Development: local, national and international levels	9
15	May 4	Sustainable Development: funding for conservation and conservation education	9
16	May 11	EXAM 3	Chapters 7 - 9

Course Evaluation Methods

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

Written review of a scientific paper (100 points) – Each student will locate, critically read, analyze and prepare a written review of a scientific paper on a topic provided by the instructor. The final version of this review should include the in-class discussion of the paper. The final written review is due at the beginning of the class following the discussion.

Oral presentation and discussion of a scientific paper (50 points) – Each student will orally communicate his/her selected scientific paper and coordinate its discussion in class. The student will take notes of this discussion to be included in the final version of his/her review.

Participation in class discussions (50 points) – Each student will read each of the scientific papers selected by the other students and participate in the discussions.

Exams (300 points) – You will be given three 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 all exams.

Grading Matrix

Instrument	Total points	Percentage value
Written review of a scientific	100	20 %
Oral presentation	50	10 %
Participation	50	10 %
Exam 1	100	20 %
Exam 2	100	20 %
Exam 3	100	20 %
Total	500	100 %

Grade Determination

A = 90% or better
 B = 80 – 89 %
 C = 70 – 79 %
 D = 60 – 69 %
 F = less than 60%

Course Policies and Procedures

Late work and make-up exams

No late assignments will be accepted without obtaining prior authorization or proving validity of absence. In such a case, the assignment should be turned in at the beginning of the following class and 10% of the points will be deducted. Exams will only be administered on the dates provided in the syllabus. You will NOT be allowed to leave the classroom and return during the exam (i.e. go to the restroom before the exam!). If you will be observing a religious holy day that is coincidental with an exam, make your instructor aware before its observance. Make-up exams will be administered during the class period **preceding** the regular exam date.

Cell phone policy

Do NOT use your cell phone in class; this includes calling, texting, internet surfing, and gaming. If your cell phone must be on during class, apply its "silent" settings. If you keep your phone on during class time, do not keep it on top of the table you are sitting at, please keep it in your pocket, purse, or bag. If your phone rings during an exam, even if the silent setting has been applied, you must turn in your exam immediately.

Laptop policy

You may use your laptop in class to take notes, but **only to take notes**. If it becomes apparent that laptops are being used by the student for activities other than lecture note taking, **all laptop use will be prohibited during class time**. Laptops are not to be used during exams. If you bring a laptop to an exam, it must remain in a bag and under the table.

Cheating and plagiarism

Cheating will NOT be tolerated in this course. If you are found cheating on an assignment or exam, you will not receive credit for the assignment/exam, and student services will be notified. Cheating includes using unauthorized material or devices on an exam, the work of another individual without proper citations, using larger portions of another's work, even with proper citations, and copying the work of a classmate. There are no exceptions to this policy.

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance)

The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from this office. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. Disability Services is located in the **Student Life Office in DAL2, Suite 200** and is open **8:30 a.m. – 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday**. The phone number is (972) 338-1775.

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all classes at UNT. 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 the SETE 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. As with all other graded assessments, cheating will not be tolerated. 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. Assignments should be turned in on time. Late assignments will be graded, but with a penalty of 10%.

Exam Policy

Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook). Any student caught cheating will automatically receive a 0 on the exam, and the instructor may pursue further disciplinary action. After the first exam is turned in, no more exams will be distributed to students that arrive late to the exam period.

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 at <http://www.unt.edu/unt->

[dallas/policies/Chapter%2007%20Student%20Affairs.%20Education.%20and%20Funding/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic_Integrity.pdf](#) for complete provisions of this code.

In addition, all academic work submitted for this class, including exams, papers, and written assignments should 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

On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campus main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website www.unt.edu/dallas. Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.

Attendance and Participation Policy

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in class. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for students to make-up or to receive credit for missed classes. Attendance and participation in all class meetings is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they are missing class and for what reason. Students are also responsible to make up any work covered in class. It is recommended that each student coordinate with a student colleague to obtain a copy of the class notes, if they are absent.

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 that violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Life as the instructor deems appropriate.

Use of Electronic Gadgets in the Classroom

You are allowed to take notes using laptops/iPads/other electronic devices. You are allowed to record the lectures. The instructor reserves the right to ask you to discontinue use of an electronic device if it becomes disruptive to others in the classroom.

Food/Drink Policy

NO food or drinks are allowed in the classroom.

UNT Dallas Learning Commons

Writing Center

The UNT Dallas Writing Center offers free, one-on-one or group tutoring services to all registered undergraduate and graduate students. Our goal is to help students write a good paper, and most importantly, become better writers. We work with students on any type of written or oral project and can help students at any stage of the writing process (from brainstorming and outlining to citing and looking over a final draft).

The Writing Center is located on the **3rd floor of DAL 1** (big glass structure in front of the stairs). During the fall and spring semesters, we are available for appointments during the following hours:

Mon-Thurs: 9:00a-7:00p Fri: 3:00p-6:00p Sat: 10:00a-3:00p

To make an appointment, browse the Writing Center's online resources, or see a list of our student FAQ's, please visit www.untdallas.edu/wc. If students cannot come in for a face-to-face appointment, students can take advantage of our free online tutoring service through SMARTHINKING. To submit drafts and get more information about this service, visit www.untdallas.edu/smart.

To make the best use of your time, please bring as much information as possible with you to your appointment (assignment, grading rubric, previous graded papers from the class, etc.). The Writing Center will not proofread papers or talk with you about grades, but we will help you become better writers over time.

Math Lab

The UNT Dallas Math Lab offers free, one-on-one or group tutoring services to all registered undergraduate students. Our goal is to help students improve their math skills, succeed in all of courses requiring math, and learn math-related skills they will need post-graduation. We work with students enrolled in all MATH courses at UNT Dallas and provide limited assistance with STATS and ACCT courses.

The Math Lab is located on the **3rd floor of DAL 1 in room 336**. Students can walk-in at any time, and our hours of operation are as follows:

Mon/Tues/Thurs: 12:00p-6:00p

Weds: 10:00a-7:00p

If students cannot come in for face-to-face tutoring, students can take advantage of our free online tutoring service through SMARTHINKING. To get more information about this service, visit www.untDallas.edu/smart.