

**BIOL 4300 - Conservation Biology****Fall 2019**

Instructor: Dr. Laurissa Hamilton

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Office and hours: N257, Monday, noon – 2pm, and by appt.

Course Code, Time, and Location: 40191, MWF 11:00-11:50 am, N221

Textbook: Essentials of Conservation Biology, 5th ed. by Richard B. Primack, 2010.**Tentative Schedule:**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading (chapters)</u>
Aug 23	Introduction: What is Conservation Biology?	1
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Aug 26	(cont.)	
Aug 28	Species Concepts & Origins	2
Aug 30	(cont.)	
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<b>Sept 2</b>	<b>No Classes – Labor Day</b>	
Sept 4	Species Richness: how many & where	3
Sept 6	(cont.)	
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<b>Sept 9</b>	<b>Quiz 1 (50 pts.) + Value of Biodiversity</b>	
Sept 11	Value of Biodiversity: Direct Use Values	4
Sept 13	(cont.)	
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Sept 16	(cont.)	
Sept 18	Value of Biodiversity: Indirect Use Values	5
Sept 20	(cont.)	
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Sept 23	Value of Biodiversity: Ethical Values	6
<b>Sept 25</b>	<b>Quiz 2 (50 pts.) + Extinction</b>	
Sept 27	Extinction & Endangerment;	7,8
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Sept 30	Threats to Biodiversity	9,10

Oct 2	(cont.)	
Oct 4	Small Populations & Population Biology	11,12
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Oct 7	(cont.)	
<b>Oct 9</b>	<b>Quiz 3 (50 pts.) + Protected Areas</b>	
Oct 11	Protected Areas: Establishment	15
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Oct 14	Protected Areas: Design	16
Oct 16	(cont.)	
Oct 18	Protected Areas: Management	17
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Oct 21	Outside of Protected Areas	18
Oct 23	(cont.)	
<b>Oct 25</b>	<b>Quiz 4 (50 pts.) + Restoration</b>	
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Oct. 28	Restoration Ecology	19
Oct. 30	(cont.)	
Nov. 1	Reintroduction	13
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<b>Nov 4</b>	<b>(cont.) (Articles Due!)</b>	
Nov 6	Ex Situ Conservation Strategies	14
Nov 8	Ex Situ Conservation Strategies (cont.)	
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<b>Nov 11</b>	<b>No Classes – Veteran’s Day Holiday</b>	
<b>Nov 13</b>	<b>Quiz 5 (50 pts.) + Laws</b>	
Nov 15	Laws & Organizations	20,21,22
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Nov 18	Student Presentations	
Nov 20	Student Presentations	
Nov 22	Student Presentations	
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Nov 25	Student Presentations
Nov 27	Student Presentations
<b>Nov 29</b>	<b>No Classes – Thanksgiving Holiday</b>
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Dec 2	Student Presentations
Dec 4	Student Presentations
<b>Dec 6</b>	<b>Quiz 6 (50 pts.) + Overview</b>
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Dec 9	Overview
<b>Dec 11</b>	<b>No Classes – Reading day</b>

**\*\*Friday, Dec 13 at 11:15 a.m. FINAL EXAM (100 pts.)\*\***

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this course is to examine current and past levels of biodiversity, the value of biodiversity, threats to biodiversity, and strategies to maintain and encourage biodiversity.

**Grading:**

Grades will be assigned on a percentage of the possible points earned, thus  
A = 90+%; B = 80-89.5%; C = 70-79.5%; D = 60-69.5%; F < 60 %.

NOTE: there will be no “+” or “-” grades given. Also note that Credit/No Credit is not an option for this course.

**Points will be earned as follows:**

6 midterm quizzes (lowest dropped), 50 pts. each	250 pts.
1 presentation	50 pts.
<u>1 final exam, 100 pts.</u>	<u>100 pts.</u>
Total	400 pts.

**Quizzes:** Quizzes will be on material presented in lectures, student presentations, and readings from the textbook. Exam format may include essay questions, definitions, short answers, fill in the blanks, and multiple-choice. Always bring scantron 882-ES. The final exam will be comprehensive. Note that your highest five quiz grades will be used in the calculation of your final grade. Quizzes will only be given as scheduled. There will be no makeup quizzes. *A quiz missed for any reason will automatically be the lowest and thus dropped grade.* Following the return of any graded quiz / assignment, you have *seven days* in which to dispute any grade discrepancies. To dispute the scoring of a quiz / assignment, bring the quiz / assignment and

supporting information showing why you deserved a different grade to my office, where we can discuss the issue privately.

**Final Exam:** This will be comprehensive. Much of the exam is likely to come from the quizzes.

**NOTE: If your overall class average of all six quizzes plus the presentation (without extra credit) is in the A range (i.e., over 90 %), you will not be required to take the final exam.**

**Participation:**

Participation includes attendance and being actively engaged in the class. This definitely includes attending other students' presentations.

**Presentation (journal article):**

The purpose of this presentation is to increase familiarity with scientific literature and to practice communications skills. This presentation will be on published refereed scientific paper in conservation biology. Each presentation has three parts: an oral presentation, a written outline, and a written abstract.

Each oral presentation will be 8-10 minutes duration using Powerpoint. It should include a short introduction to the study, a thorough explanation of the methods, clear results, and a short conclusion of the major findings.

Each typed outline will be a brief outline of the informational points in the oral presentation. The outline must conclude with 2 major "points to remember" from the paper. Note: these cannot be "random" points, but must be the major conclusions of the research in the paper. Enough photocopies of the outline must be ready and given to everyone in the class prior to the oral presentation. This should be 1-2 pages in length, no more, no less.

Each typed abstract is, of course, on the paper being presented. An abstract consists of 1-2 sentences of introduction, 1-2 sentences on methods, and several sentences on major findings. This is generally written as one or two paragraphs. The lower and upper page limits for this are  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  pages, double-spaced. Only one copy needs to be turned in directly to your teacher. This is also due on presentation day. Note that you cannot turn in the abstract which was published with your paper!

No quotes will be allowed in any part of the presentation or associated written tasks! No plagiarism allowed! *You will need to submit your abstract to [Turn-it-in.com](http://Turn-it-in.com) to help in assessing its originality.* I will provide instructions for the submission process via email shortly before the submission date.

Grading will be on preparedness and knowledge of the paper's contents and following the presentation instructions (another handout). Level of nervousness will not be graded. However, you are expected to present in as professional a manner as possible.

Papers for the presentation must come from refereed scientific journals. Only papers published in 2018 or 2019 will be approved. Many journals have papers related to conservation biology.

The most obvious ones that I recommend are Conservation Biology and Biological Conservation. These are completely available to you online via our library (i.e. [www.csustan.edu](http://www.csustan.edu) → library → electronic journals). Articles from other journals will also be considered.

→ **When you think you have a paper that you want to present, bring a pdf copy of the first title page.** Keep a copy for your own records – you are responsible for remembering your topic / article.

**Note: all presentation articles must be pre-approved by your instructor by November 4.** (Sooner is better and I will give priority of paper choice and scheduling to those who bring their requests first.)

### **Extra Credit:**

You may earn 10 extra credit points for doing outside conservation-related work. You must obtain prior approval for the work from your instructor and sign a liability waiver. Examples of work that are likely to be approved include: helping with a conservation-related project at a park or refuge (not a project that you are already doing, however), helping with conservation-related research, or writing a 2-page abstract on a preapproved 2018 or later journal article. Note that any extra credit work is not a requirement for this course and that you must personally accept liability for your participation in any extra credit work. Also note, that any extra credit work must be approved by Nov. 22 and will be due by Dec 4 at the beginning of class time. No extra credit work will be approved after that time and final grades will be final.

### **Other:**

- 1) Cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty (ex. **plagiarism**) will result in an automatic grade of zero for that assignment and potentially an F in the course. Note that plagiarism is using another's words as your own. It includes minor tweaking of sentences and near quotes. Thus, when you do your presentation and associated outline and abstract, be sure that you use your own wording. Some special phrasings must stay the same to retain meaning, but “lifting” of entire sentences or using entire paragraphs with just some minor rewording are both considered plagiarism! (This applies even if you have cited the source).
- 2) There is a “no electronics” policy in the course. All electronics (cell phones, tablets, laptops, etc) must remain in your backpack, purse, etc for the entire class period, unless you are requested to use them for class purposes by the instructor.
- 3) Audio and video recording of this class are not allowed. Let me know if you have some reason why you think you should have an exception to this.