

**BIOL 4300 - Conservation Biology****Spring 2019**

Instructor: Dr. Ann Kohlhaas

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office and hours: N275, Tues &amp; Wed 1:30 – 3:00 pm, and by appt.

Course Time and Location: MWF 8:00-8:50 am, N221

Textbook: Essentials of Conservation Biology, 6th ed. by Richard B. Primack, 2014**Tentative Schedule:**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u> (chapters)
Jan 25	Intro: What is Conservation Biology?	1
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Jan 28	(cont.)	
Jan 30	Species Concepts & Origins	2
Feb 1	(cont.)	
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Feb 4	Species Richness: how many & where	3
<b>Feb 6</b>	<b>Quiz 1 (50 pts.) + Value of Biodiversity</b>	
Feb 8	Value of Biodiversity: Direct Use Values	4
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Feb 11	(cont.)	
Feb 13	(cont.)	
Feb 15	Value of Biodiversity: Indirect Use Values	5
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Feb 18	(cont.)	
<b>Feb 20</b>	<b>Quiz 2 (50 pts.) + Value</b>	
Feb 22	Value of Biodiversity: Ethical Values	6
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Feb 25	Extinction & Endangerment;	7, 8
Feb 27	(cont.)	
March 1	Threats to Biodiversity	9, 10
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March 4	(cont.)	
<b>March 6</b>	<b>Quiz 3 (50 pts.) + Small Populations</b>	
March 8	Small Populations & Population Biology	11, 12
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March 11	(cont.)	
March 13	(cont.)	
March 15	Protected Areas: Establishment	15
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<b>MARCH 18 - 22</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK = NO CLASSES!!</b>	
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March 25	Protected Areas: Design	16
<b>March 27</b>	<b>Quiz 4 (50 pts.) + Restoration</b>	
<b>March 29</b>	Protected Areas: Management ( <b>Articles Due!</b> )	17

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<b>April 1</b>	<b>NO CLASSES</b>	
April 3	Outside of Protected Areas	18
April 5	Restoration Ecology	19
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April 8	(cont.)	
April 10	Reintroduction	13
April 12	Presentation Preparation	
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April 15	Reintroduction (cont.)	
<b>April 17</b>	<b>Quiz 5 (50 pts.) + Laws</b>	
April 19	Ex Situ Conservation Strategies	14
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April 22	Laws & Organizations	20, 21, 22
April 24	(cont.)	
April 26	Student Presentations	
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April 29	Student Presentations	
May 1	Student Presentations	
May 3	Student Presentations	
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May 6	Student Presentations	
May 8	Student Presentations	
May 10	Student Presentations	
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<b>May 13</b>	<b>Quiz 6 (50 pts.) + Overview</b>	
May 15	Open Topic	

**Friday, May 17 at 8:30 a.m. FINAL EXAM (50 pts.)**

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**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:**

6 midterm quizzes (lowest dropped), 50 pts. each	250 pts.
1 presentation	50 pts.
1 final exam, 50 pts.	50 pts.
Total	350 pts.

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.

**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, and fill in the blanks. 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 are no makeup quizzes. A quiz missed for any reason will automatically be the lowest and thus will be the dropped grade. There will be no deviation from this policy unless two or more quizzes are missed and all were for absolutely unavoidable, independently verifiable, and university-approved reasons (e.g. two hospitalizations!).

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

**Alternative Grading:** If you are satisfied with your grade average from all six quizzes plus the presentation (no dropped quizzes and without extra credit), then you can skip the final and take that average. If you miss the final for any reason, you will have this alternative grading. If you take the final, it will definitely count as listed above in "**Grading:**" and any extra credit will be added in.

**Presentation (journal article):**

The purposes of this presentation are to increase familiarity with scientific literature and to practice communications skills. This presentation will be on published refereed scientific paper on conservation biology. Your presentation will be a 6-10 minute oral presentation of a recently published conservation research paper. Each presentation has two parts: an oral presentation and a written outline. (More information is given on a separate handout.)

The presentations must be on research papers (at least 6 pages long) published in scientific journals in 2018 or 2019. Two journals that I highly recommend are Conservation Biology and Biological Conservation. Recent issues of Biological Conservation are available via the library website. Articles from other journals will also be considered.

Two methods of searching for articles:

1) Look through recent journals to see what has been published.

[www.csustan.edu](http://www.csustan.edu) → Library → Journal Articles → E Journals A-Z  
→ type in journal name

2) Search by topic.

[www.csustan.edu](http://www.csustan.edu) → Library → Journal Articles → Articles by Subject  
→ Biological Sciences → choose a database

Note: You do not need to buy an article! There are literally hundreds, maybe even thousands, of appropriate articles available to you for free. If you cannot get an article online for free, I suggest you choose another article. You can also consider asking Interlibrary Loan as they may be able to get you a particular article that is not available online.

→When you think you have a paper that you want to present, **bring a pdf copy of the first title page.**

**Proposed presentation articles must be submitted to your instructor by March 29.**

(Sooner is better and I will give priority of paper choice and scheduling to those who bring their requests earlier.)

**NOTE:**

- Late materials will be deducted 10 % points for each weekday late.
- Presentations that are not given as scheduled will lose 5 pts. per day late.

**Extra Credit:** You may earn up to 10 pts. extra credit. You must obtain prior approval for the work from your instructor and sign a liability waiver for any outside work. Examples of work that are likely to be approved include: helping with a conservation-related project at a park or refuge, 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 April 26 and will be due by May 3 at the beginning of class. 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 (e.g. plagiarism) will result in an automatic grade of F in the course. Note that plagiarism is using another's words without acknowledging the source. 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!
- 2) Let me know if there is some reason why you need your cell phone on during class. Otherwise, cell phones should be **OFF** during class. This includes texting which is both rude and disruptive to your concentration and mine. Research has shown that "multitaskers" have decreased comprehension and accomplishment than "single taskers." When you are in class, be totally in class.
- 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.