

BIOL 4300 - Conservation Biology**Fall 2015**

Instructor: Dr. Ann Kohlhaas

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

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

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading (chapters)</u>
Aug 24	Intro: What is Conservation Biology?	1
Aug 26	(cont.)	
Aug 28	Species Concepts & Origins	2

Aug 31	(cont.)	
Sept 2	Species Richness: how many & where	3
Sept 4	(cont.)	

Sept 7	No Classes – Labor Day	
Sept 9	Quiz 1 (50 pts.) + Value of Biodiversity	
Sept 11	Value of Biodiversity: Direct Use Values	4

Sept 14	(cont.)	
Sept 16	(cont.)	
Sept 18	Value of Biodiversity: Indirect Use Values	5

Sept 21	(cont.)	
Sept 23	Value of Biodiversity: Ethical Values	6
Sept 25	(cont.)	

Sept 28	Quiz 2 (50 pts.) + Extinction	
Sept 30	Extinction & Endangerment;	7,8
Oct 2	Threats to Biodiversity	9,10

Oct 5	(cont.)	
Oct 7	Small Populations & Population Biology	11,12
Oct 9	(cont.)	

Oct 12	Quiz 3 (50 pts.) + Protected Areas	
Oct 14	Protected Areas: Establishment	15
Oct 16	Protected Areas: Design	16

Oct 19	(cont.)	
Oct 21	Protected Areas: Management	17
Oct 23	Outside of Protected Areas	18

Oct 26	Quiz 4 (50 pts.) + Restoration	
Oct. 28	Restoration Ecology	19
Oct 30	(cont.)	

Nov 2	Reintroduction	13
Nov 4	(cont.) (Articles Due!)	
Nov 6	Ex Situ Conservation Strategies	14

Nov 9	Quiz 5 (50 pts.) + Laws	
Nov 11	No Classes – Veteran’s Day	
Nov 13	Laws & Organizations	20, 21, 22

Nov 16	(cont.)	
Nov 18	Student Presentations	
Nov 20	Student Presentations	

Nov 23	Student Presentations	
Nov 25	Student Presentations	
Nov 27	No Classes – Thanksgiving Holiday	

Nov 30	Student Presentations	
Dec 2	Student Presentations	
Dec 4	Student Presentations	

Dec 7	Quiz 6 (50 pts.) + Overview	
Dec 9	Open Topic	
Dec 11	No Classes – Reading Day	

Monday, Dec 14 at 11:15 a.m. FINAL EXAM (50 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:

6 midterm quizzes (lowest dropped), 50 pts. each	250 pts.
1 presentation	50 pts.
<u>1 final exam, 100 pts.</u>	<u>50 pts.</u>
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, 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 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 animal behavior. Your presentation will be a 6-10 minute oral presentation of a recently published behavioral 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 2014 or 2015. Two journals that I highly recommend are Conservation Biology and Biological Conservation. These are completely available to you online via our library. 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 → Library → Find Books & Articles → E Journals A-Z
→ type in journal name

2) Search by topic.

www.csustan.edu → Library → Find Books & 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 if they can 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 November 4.

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

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 2014 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. 16 and will be due by Nov 23 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 (ex. 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.