

BIOL 4300 - Conservation Biology**Spring 2020**

Instructor: Dr. Ann Kohlhaas

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office and hours: N275, Tues & Wed noon - 1:30 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 27	Intro: What is Conservation Biology?	1
Jan 29	(cont.)	
Jan 31	Species Concepts & Origins	2

Feb 3	(cont.)	
Feb 5	Species Richness: how many & where	3
Feb 7	(cont.)	

Feb 10	Quiz 1 (50 pts.) + Value of Biodiversity	
Feb 12	Value of Biodiversity: Direct Use Values	4
Feb 14	(cont.)	

Feb 17	Value of Biodiversity: Indirect Use Values	5
Feb 19	(cont.)	
Feb 21	Value of Biodiversity: Ethical Values	6

Feb 24	Quiz 2 (50 pts.) + Extinction	
Feb 26	Extinction & Endangerment;	7, 8
Feb 28	(cont.)	

March 2	Threats to Biodiversity	9, 10
March 4	(cont.)	
March 6	(cont.)	

March 9	Small Populations	11
March 11	Quiz 3 (50 pts.) + Population Biology	
March 13	Population Biology	12

March 16	Protected Areas: Establishment	15
March 18	(cont.)	
March 20	Protected Areas: Design	16

MARCH 23-27	SPRING BREAK = NO CLASSES!!	

March 30	Protected Areas: Management (Articles Due!)	17
April 1	Quiz 4 (50 pts.) + Restoration	
April 3	Outside of Protected Areas	18

April 6	Restoration Ecology	19
April 8	(cont.)	
April 10	Reintroduction	13

April 13	Reintroduction (cont.)	
April 15	Quiz 5 (50 pts.) + Laws	
April 17	Presentation Preparation	

April 20	Ex Situ Conservation Strategies	14
April 22	Laws & Organizations	20, 21, 22
April 24	(cont.)	

April 27	Student Presentations	
April 29	Student Presentations	
May 1	Student Presentations	

May 4	Student Presentations	
May 6	Student Presentations	
May 8	Student Presentations	

May 11	Student Presentations	
May 13	Quiz 6 (50 pts.) + Overview	
May 15	Open Topic	

Monday, May 18 at 8:30 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.
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 and student presentations. 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. 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 2019 or 2020. Two journals that I highly recommend are Conservation Biology and Biological Conservation. Articles from other journals will also be considered.

You can search for articles by topic as follows:

www.csustan.edu → Library → Articles by Subject → Biological Sciences
→ choose a database (Biological Abstracts, GreenFILE, Web of Science)

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 30.

(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 2019 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 27 and will be due by May 4 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, 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.