

**NRM 4302/NRM 5303 – ADVANCED TOPICS IN CONSERVATION BIOLOGY**  
**Fall 2014 – Course Syllabus**

**Instructor:**

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**Course Description:**

Examines the major areas in conservation-oriented research including patterns of biodiversity, extinction, conservation genetics, conservation of populations, communities and landscapes, and natural resource sustainability.

**Course Objectives:**

Students will examine various advanced topics in Conservation Biology. On completion of the course, students will:

1. understand how to research key topics and present the information to an audience,
2. be better communicators having daily practice discussing issues amongst a group of peers, and
3. have a broader understanding of the most current and pressing issues in the field of conservation biology.

**Textbook:**

None required. Readings will be provided to students.

**Course Outline:**

Topics to be decided on by students on the first class day. Instructor will provide a preliminary list of topics which will be ranked by students. The highest ranking topics will be presented and discussed in class.

**NRM 4302 Grading:**

Discussion Questions/Participation	50%
Topic Lecture/Report	30%
Final Exam	20%

**NRM 5303 Grading:**

Discussion Questions/Participation	40%
Topic Lecture/Report	20%
Final Exam	20%
Graduate Paper	20%

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TOTAL	100%	TOTAL	100%
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**Scale: 90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, <60% = F**

*Final Exam*

- The final exam will be given during the published final's schedule date/time. The "essay type" exam will cover all topics discussed in class.

*Discussion Questions and Class Participation*

- Students will be expected to read all assigned papers and complete all related discussion questions prior to the class they will be discussed in. This preparation is necessary for the class to have an informed discussion on the topic.

*Topic Lecture and Report*

- Students will be responsible for writing a topic report, presenting background information to the class in the form of a lecture, and leading the class in discussion on an assigned topic. The topic lecture will include a PowerPoint presentation synthesizing additional assigned readings on the topic. You will also be responsible for leading a dynamic discussion on the topic with the class. A report addressing the topic based on assigned readings will be due on your assigned lecture day. The report will be a minimum of 5 pages in length (single spaced, times new roman, 12point font).

*Graduate Paper and additional discussion*

- Graduate students will also read a topical book. I will provide a list of book choice or you can read one of your own choosing with instructor approval. At the end of the semester, graduate students will submit a paper on the book. More information will be provided on the paper requirements later in the semester.

**Attendance:**

Attendance is imperative for the successful completion of this course, but is ultimately the responsibility of the student. If you must be absent, you must contact the instructor BEFORE the scheduled class/exam. It is the student's responsibility to determine what information was missed and schedule make-up assignments. If you do not have a university excuse, you will receive a zero for work given that day (including participation).

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Academic dishonesty includes copying, sharing, or obtaining information from an unauthorized source, attempting to take credit for the intellectual work of another person, falsifying information, and giving or receiving information about a test, quiz, or assignment to other students. Any student involved in academic dishonesty will receive no credit (0) for work done and/or may be penalized in accordance with published University Rules.

*It is Sul Ross State University Policy to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such accommodations because of physical, mental, or learning disability, please contact the ADA Coordinator for Accessibility Services in Ferguson Hall Room 112 or call 432-837-8203.*

***It is my hope that you find this course both enjoyable and informative!***

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**Fall 2014 Schedule**

		<b>TOPIC</b>
Week 1	26-Aug 28-Aug	intro/de-extinction rewilding
Week 2	2-Sep 4-Sep	nature deficit disorder/conservation ed
Week 3	9-Sep 11-Sep	endangered species/6th extinction
Week 4	16-Sep 18-Sep	predators & trophic cascades
Week 5	23-Sep 25-Sep	wildlife decline and social conflict
Week 6	30-Sep 2-Oct	exotic species/hybrids
Week 7	7-Oct 9-Oct	hunting (its use in conservation)
Week 8	14-Oct 16-Oct	climate change
Week 9	21-Oct 23-Oct	freshwater
Week 10	28-Oct 30-Oct	forests
Week 11	4-Nov 6-Nov	wildlife corridors
Week 12	11-Nov 13-Nov	extinction crisis (6th extinction)
Week 13	18-Nov 20-Nov	human demographics (pop growth)
Week 14	25-Nov <b>27-Nov</b>	class review and recap <b>Thanksgiving holiday</b>
<b>Week 15</b>	<b>2-Dec</b> <b>4-Dec</b>	<b>Final Exam/Book reports due (grads)</b> <b>Dead day (no class)</b>
<b>final</b>	<b>9-Dec</b>	<b>makeup date for final exam</b>