

**NRM 4302/NRM 5303 – ADVANCED TOPICS IN CONSERVATION BIOLOGY**  
**Dept. Natural Resource Management**  
**Fall 2016 – Course Syllabus**

**Instructor:**

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**Office Hours:** Office hours will be posted on my door, however, please feel free to stop by my office anytime (even outside of office hours) if you need assistance.

**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	40%
Topic Lecture/Report	30%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	15%

**NRM 5303 Grading:**

Discussion Questions/Participation	30%
Topic Lecture/Report	20%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	15%
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**

*Midterm and Final Exams*

- The midterm and final exams are “essay type” exams that will cover the topics discussed in class. The midterm exam will cover topics discussed in the first half of class and the final exam will cover topics discussed in the second half of class. (see course schedule for dates)

### *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 excused absence, 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 another student. Copying information verbatim from a book, another paper, or the internet is also plagiarism, instead you must paraphrase or state the information in your own words. 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. Multiple offenses will result in the expulsion from the class with the grade of F.

**Accessibility Services:** Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartze, M. Ed., L.P.C., in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8691. E-mail: mschwartz@sulross.edu.

### **Additional Outcome Objectives as Required by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools:**

#### ***Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for the B.S. in Natural Resource Management***

1. Students will be able to identify species of wildland plants and wildlife common to the western United States and describe their natural history.
2. Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the elements of an ecosystem.
3. Students will be able to communicate about natural resources and conservation both verbally and in writing.

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

## NRM 4302/5303 – Advanced Topics in Conservation Biology

### Fall 2016 Schedule

Week	Dates	TOPIC	PRESENTERS
Week 1	23-Aug 25-Aug	intro/de-extinction rewilding	moody
Week 2	30-Aug 1-Sep	nature deficit disorder/conservation ed	moody
Week 3	6-Sep 8-Sep	climate change	sky
Week 4	13-Sep 15-Sep	extinction crisis	philip
Week 5	20-Sep 22-Sep	invasive species	john/garrett
Week 6	27-Sep 29-Sep	wildlife decline and social conflict	shelby/michaela
Week 7	4-Oct 6-Oct	freshwater	charles/zuzu
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>11-Oct</b> <b>13-Oct</b>	<b>midterm review</b> <b>midterm exam</b>	
Week 9	18-Oct 20-Oct	ecotourism	mark/rainey
Week 10	25-Oct 27-Oct	predators/trophic cascades	chelby/destinee
Week 11	1-Nov 3-Nov	cwd/deer breeding	kalea/tyler
Week 12	8-Nov 10-Nov	entomophagy	miles/destinee
Week 13	15-Nov 17-Nov	human demographics/population growth	denis
Week 14	22-Nov <b>24-Nov</b>	final review <b>Thanksgiving holiday</b>	
<b>Week 15</b>	<b>29-Nov</b> <b>1-Dec</b>	<b>Final Exam/Book reports due (grads)</b> <b>Dead day (no class)</b>	
	<b>6-Dec</b>	<b>makeup date for final exam</b>	