

Sul Ross State University
NRM 5324-W01 (22305) Conservation Biology
Dept of Natural Resource Management
Spring 2017—Course Syllabus

Instructor: Cynthia McAlister
Office: FH 206 (Ferguson Hall 206, Alpine)
Office Hours: MWF 10:00-11:00; TR 11:00-12:30; or by appointment
Phone: 432-837-8522
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Class meeting time and space: Blackboard

Course Description:

An advanced course exploring conservation-based research, including threats to biodiversity, biogeography, extinction, conservation genetics, landscape connectivity, endangered species conservation, ecological restoration, and conservation education.

Course Objectives:

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

- a. have a broader understanding of the most current and pressing issues in the field of conservation biology,
- b. have enhanced ability to research key topics in conservation biology, and
- c. have increased ability to communicate about conservation biology topics.

Textbook: None required. Readings will be provided.

Distance Education Non-Participation Statement

Policies in effect for on-campus, traditional classroom instruction courses also apply to students enrolled in distance education courses, including Web-based and ITV courses. The University allows a maximum of 20% absences in a course before an instructor may drop a student for excessive absences. In Web courses, this policy is interpreted as not participating for more than 3 weeks in a long semester, 1 week in a summer session, or 3 days in the midwinter session. Any student dropped for non-participation will receive an “F” in the course dropped. Inactivity may include the following:

- Not logging on to the course
- Not submitting assignments
- Not participating in scheduled activities
- Not communicating with the instructor by phone or email, and/or
- Not following the instructor’s participation guidelines stated in the syllabus.

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 Schwartz, 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 M. Agr. in Range and Wildlife Management*

1. Students will be able to apply statistical concepts and procedures to natural resource data.
2. Students will be able to evaluate literature and references as they apply to the natural resource field.
3. Students will be able to demonstrate their knowledge of the fundamentals and advanced concepts of range and wildlife management.

Weekly Assignments:

Each week we will delve into a new topic, for a total of 12 topics during the semester.

After perusing materials provided, students will analyze and reflect in three ways.

1. Complete Writing assignment. This is a minimum of 750 words focused on the week's topic. This assignment is viewable by me only. Your writing should closely track the week's topic. If you have non-topic comments for me, please send them through an email to cmca849@sulross.edu
2. Complete Questions assignment. Compose minimum of five questions about the week's topic. This writing is for sharing with the class. This assignment is viewable by the whole class.
3. Complete Dialog assignment. This is class discussion that track's the week's topic as closely as possible. This assignment is viewable by the whole class.

Final Project

a. Assignment: Start thinking about a topic you want to investigate more closely. You can go more deeply into a topic we cover in class, or you can pick something else in the field that interests you. If you need help, let me know, I've got lots of ideas.

Due by midnight Sunday 3/12: working title of presentation

b. Assignment: You will create and upload to Blackboard, a 20 minute, graduate-level presentation on a Conservation Biology topic of your choosing. You may use power point or some other presentation tool. The presentation should stand on its own. In other words, don't create a power point that needs narration or notes to be complete. You could record your own narration, or record yourself delivering the presentation.

c. Assignment: Peruse all presentations and comment/converse/question

d. Assignment: Final writing assignment; viewable by me only.

GRADING

Assignments	% of grade
Weekly Written Report	40
Weekly Discussion	5
Weekly QUESTIONS	5
Final project	50

% of points	Grade earned
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
59 and below	F

Tentative Schedule

Week	Dates		Topic
1	1/17-1/22	1	Introductions and Syllabus; first assignment due by midnight Su 1/22.
2	1/23-1/29	2	Human Impact: Climate Change
3	1/30-2/5	3	Human Impact: 6th Extinction
4	2/6-2/12	4	Genomic-level conservation
5	2/13-2/19	5	Human Impact: Food-Fishing; ocean ecosystems
6	2/20-2/26	6	Human Impact: Habitat loss, fragmentation
7	2/27-3/5	7	Invertebrate conservation; Species-level conservation Case Study: Bumblebees
8	3/6-3/12	8	Policy
9	3/13-3/19		SPRING BREAK
10	3/20-3/26	9	Human Population
11	3/27-4/2	10	Ecosystem-level conservation-Forests
12	4/3-4/9	11	Nature Deficit Disorder
13	4/10-4/16	12	Ecotourism
14	4/17-4/23		Begin posting Final projects. All projects should be posted by midnight Su 4/23
15	4/24-4/30		Review all presentations. Submit comments via Discussion Board. Submit final Written Assignment. All work is due by midnight Su 5/7.
16	5/1-5/7		All work is due by midnight Su 5/7.