

Sul Ross State University
NRM 5324 Conservation Biology
Dept of Natural Resource Management
Fall 2021—Course Syllabus

Instructor:

Dr. Patricia Moody Harveson

Office: RAS 114

Phone: 837-8826

Email: pharveson@sulross.edu

Office hours: My official office hours are on Mondays from 10:00-Noon and 1:30-4:30pm, but I am available to meet by appointment at other times too. Since this is an online class, most communication will be through email, phone, or Blackboard Collaborate (virtual meeting). If you would like to have an in-person meeting, virtual meeting, or phone call, please email me to schedule an appointment.

Class meeting time and space: Blackboard

Course Catalog 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/Videos:

A textbook is not required. However, you will be required to read 1 book during the semester which you will need to either purchase or check out from a library. You will also be required to watch several documentaries that you will need to rent but the total cost for rentals will not exceed \$30.

Grading:

	Total Points	% of Course Grade
Weekly Topic Discussions (25 pts each)	300	30%
Weekly Topic Reports (25 pts each)	300	30%
Peer Facilitation of Discussion Board	200	20%
Book Report	100	10%
Reflection Journal	100	10%
TOTAL	1,000	100%

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

Weekly Assignments:

Assignments will be posted on Blackboard and will be due that class week. The class is structured into weekly time periods that begin on Monday and end on Sunday. All assignments are due by Sunday. In case there is a technical issue with Blackboard on the weekend, you will be given a “grace period” until Monday at noon to submit assignments. After this grace period, **NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED** without prior approval by instructor. See the class schedule (posted in Blackboard) for the dates and assignments for each week.

Topic Materials:

Each week we will explore a different topic. Your readings and videos will be posted to Blackboard. It is expected that you will read/watch all material provided for each topic. You should review all material PRIOR to posting to the discussion board and writing your report.

Topic Reports:

Each week you will submit a report on the topic covered. Each report should be a synthesis of materials covered in class. Specific instructions on topic report requirements will be provided in Blackboard. Each report is due by midnight Sunday.

Discussion Boards:

Each week one or more Discussion Boards (also called forums) will be posted to Blackboard for student participation. Each student should participate in the forum and each posting will be graded based upon the relevance, depth of knowledge, and unique contribution that it made to the discussion. For each discussion board, you will need to make your own original post (by Thursday), as well as comment on posts by other students or instructors (by Sunday). You must make these postings during the week in which it was scheduled. Please make your first initial post (original post) by Thursday of the week it is scheduled. You then have until Sunday to respond to other posts. I suggest you reply to at least 2 other student posts to facilitate discussion and receive maximum credit. You will not receive credit for late postings.

Peer Facilitator:

You will choose one or more topics/weeks for which you will act as the facilitator for the discussion forums. In addition to your usually discussion board postings, you will also facilitate the discussion forum for those weeks. Specific instructions will be provided in Blackboard.

Book Report:

You will select one book to read related to a topic in the class. I will provide a list of books that you can choose from. You will have the entire semester to read the book and create your report. Specific instructions will be provided in Blackboard.

Reflection Journal:

You will post two video reflections on the course in a Blackboard journal with 1) beginning thoughts and 2) end of course reflections. Questions for you to address in your video are included on Blackboard.

Course Schedule

NRM 5324 - Conservation Biology: Fall 2020 Tentative Course Schedule (see Blackboard for a more detailed schedule):

Week	Beginning date	Due date	Topic Covered [Other]
1	23-Aug	29-Aug	Intro to Conservation Biology [Journal]
2	30-Aug	5-Sep	Sixth Extinction
3	6-Sep	12-Sep	Rewilding
4	13-Sep	19-Sep	Predators and Trophic Cascades
5	20-Sep	26-Sep	US/MX Border Wall
6	27-Sep	3-Oct	Nature Deficient Disorder
7	4-Oct	10-Oct	Human Population Growth
8	11-Oct	17-Oct	Climate Change
9	18-Oct	24-Oct	Energy Development
10	25-Oct	31-Oct	Bats and White-nose Syndrome
11	1-Nov	7-Nov	Feeding the World
12	8-Nov	14-Nov	Hope and Conservation
13	15-Nov	21-Nov	[Book Report Due]
14	22-Nov	28-Nov	[Thanksgiving Break]
15	29-Nov	5-Dec	Wrap-up [Journal]

Academic Policies, Resources, and Other Information

Distance Education Statement:

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

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 Integrity:

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared, and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: Turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden.

SRSU Library Services:

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires logging in with your Lobold and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).

The Southwest Texas Junior College (SWTJC) Libraries at Uvalde, Del Rio, and Eagle Pass offer additional access to library spaces and resources. Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Uvalde students may also use online resources available through SWTJC website, library.swtjc.edu. The SWTJC Libraries serve as pick-up locations for InterLibrary Loan (ILL) and Document Delivery from the Alpine campus.

SRSU Disability Services:

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Rebecca Greathouse Wren, LPC-S, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email rebecca.wren@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

Classroom Climate of Respect:

Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

Diversity Statement:

I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honors your identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, socioeconomic class, age, nationality, etc.). I also understand that the crisis of COVID, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events could impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create an inclusive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If you feel like your performance

in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you.

Marketable Skills (Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board):

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of key NRM topics
2. Students will be able to apply knowledge to projects that include bio statistics, research methods, and scientific writing.
3. Students will demonstrate skills in scientific writing and analysis.

Additional Outcome Objectives (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools):

Student Learning Outcomes for the M.S. in Natural Resource Management

1. Students will be able to apply statistical concepts and procedures to research.
2. Students will be able to evaluate literature and references to substantiate the applied research project.
3. Students will be able to justify and defend research questions and design.

Student Learning Outcomes for the M.Ag. in Natural Resource 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.