

Course Syllabus

Conservation Techniques

Course number: 11:216:315

Online

Professor: Dr. Marci Meixler (meixler@sebs.rutgers.edu)

Description

Many of you want to know how the knowledge you learn in Ecology, Evolution or Environmental Science classes can be used in the application of conservation and management. This course is an introduction to the diverse ways information is used for regulations, decisions, and conservation actions. The material in this course will present the principles and review the methods used for each approach. Case studies will illustrate how conservation actions were developed and applied.

Learning goals:

- To understand the ways that information is used for decision-making and conservation actions
- To gain knowledge of regulatory and decision-making tools used in the practice of conservation
- To practice critical thinking regarding the proper use of conservation techniques

Course Format

This course will use web-based education consisting of textbook readings, discussion activities, on-line quizzes, a conservation project and a final exam.

You will begin each topic area by reading the textbook chapter which, in addition to providing detail on the content, will also contain example applications, benefits and drawbacks of each technique and a case-study detailing its application. The chapters have references to other optional readings.

Grading System

Online quizzes for each chapter (13 – 2.5% each)	32.5%
Online discussions (13 - 2.5% each)	32.5%
Conservation-in-action project	15%
Final exam	20%

Extra credit

up to 1%

1. Online quizzes - you are required to take an online quiz related to the chapter assigned that week to ensure the readings are done and to serve as a template for how the final exam will feel. You should take notes while reading each chapter so you can better answer the questions. You will have 10 mins for each quiz. Quizzes will be open until midnight EST on the due date. Quizzes submitted late will be docked points.
2. Online discussions - each Monday a new discussion will be opened related to the chapter of the week and will remain open for discussion throughout the week. You are expected to research an example related to the topic of the week and make your initial post to the weekly discussion question ***within the first 2 days*** (which means by midnight Tues) of the time the discussion opens and to respond to the posts of other students throughout the week.

Grading will follow this formula:

quality+timeliness+frequency+consistency

See section called “how to do well in this course” for more detail on grading scheme

The discussion with the lowest score will be dropped.

3. Conservation-in-action project - you will participate in a variety of conservation related projects of your choosing. You will need to document your activity with photos, post the photo in the conservation-in-action project discussion and write about how your experience relates to the topics in this course.
4. Final exam-The final exam covers all topics in the textbook. The exam is open notes, open internet but is limited to 1 hour and 30 minutes.
5. Extra credit - optional

Readings

There is an online freely available textbook for this class. The link to it is:

<https://doi.org/10.7282/00000159>

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity. You are responsible for understanding the [RU Academic Integrity Policy](#). I will strongly enforce this Policy. For all examinations and assignments, you will be required to uphold the RU Honor Pledge, which states, “On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination or assignment.” For all written assignments, we will screen your work through an automated plagiarism detection service that compares your work against a large database of past work.

How to do well in this class

Each week a new topic will be introduced. You will be expected to read the associated chapter in the textbook, take a quiz, and participate in the discussion. Throughout the course you will participate in a variety of conservation actions of your choosing (e.g. the conservation-in-action project) and will write about your experiences.

To do well in this class you should:

- Do the assigned reading early in the week
- Take the quiz before the deadline
- Participate in the weekly discussion by making your top post before the deadline, respond on at least two days of the week (but not just the last two days of the week), respond to at least 5 posts of other students, and make sure all posts are high quality and in your own words with thoughtful responses and questions that move the discussion forward
- Meet all deadlines
- Participate in conservation actions throughout the course (post in the conservation-in-action discussion anytime you do an activity)
- Take the final exam before the due date

Class schedule

Note: all due dates are at midnight unless otherwise noted

Week	Topic
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Fundamental techniques	
1	<i>Science and Practice</i> Chapter 1 Quiz Discussion
2	<i>Standards and Criteria</i> Chapter 2 Quiz Discussion
3	<i>National Environmental Policy Act</i> Chapter 3 Quiz Discussion
Biologically-focused techniques	
4	<i>Rewilding</i> Chapter 4 Quiz Discussion
5	<i>Endangered Species Protection and Recovery</i> Chapter 5 Quiz Discussion
6	<i>Biomonitoring</i> Chapter 6 Endangered species paper Quiz Discussion

Habitat-focused techniques

7 ***Habitat Assessment***

Chapter 7

Quiz

Discussion

8 ***Restoration***

Chapter 8

Quiz

Discussion

9 ***Ecological Engineering***

Chapter 9

Quiz

Discussion

Holistic techniques

10 ***Ecosystem Based Management***

Chapter 10

Quiz

Discussion

11 ***Adaptive Management***

Chapter 11

Quiz

Discussion

12 ***Ecosystem Services***

Chapter 12

Quiz

Discussion

13 ***Sustainability***

Chapter 13

Quiz

Discussion

Final course activities

14 ***Conservation-in-action*** project due

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