BIO 3052 – Conservation Biology – Spring 2018

Meeting Time: Tuesday and Thursday 3:00-4:15 pm

Meeting Place: Biological Sciences Building (BIO) 209

Course objectives

This is a classroom course for Biology majors who have completed Principles of Ecology (PCB 3044). Conservation Biology is a diverse subject that requires coverage of information from biology, ecology, economics, politics, and law (among others) to understand all of the factors involved in preserving biodiversity (the primary goal of conservation biology). This version of the course will focus primarily on the science of conservation biology. We will cover forms of biological diversity, population decline and extinction, how to maintain biodiversity, human factors, and a variety of conservation case studies. This is an upper-level course so I expect students to be fully involved and actively participate in the class.

Instructor:

Dr. Joshua King
Biology Building, Room 309C
Office Hours: Tues, Thurs 1:45 pm-3pm, and by appointment
Email: joshua.king@ucf.edu

Communication with the class

All communications from me will be sent to your knights email account. You are responsible for checking your knights email on a regular basis.

I always respond to email from students, however occasionally an email message may be lost. Phone, or talk to us in class if we do not respond to your email within 24 hours. Response time may be slower on weekends. As a matter of courtesy we expect you to identify yourself in any email you send.

Class website

There is a lot of information for you on the web page for this course (http://king.cos.ucf.edu), under "Courses" and "Conservation Biology BSC 3052" in the header menu.

The syllabus and other reading material (that is not in the book and required for our case studies) will also be posted there as pdf files. I will post any announcements there, too. Make sure you keep up with the website on a regular basis.

Textbook

Hunter & Gibbs. *Fundamentals of Conservation Biology*. Blackwell.

Behavior in class

It is assumed that all students will act in a mature manner in the classroom showing respect for their peers and the instructors. Any student who consistently distracts other students or the instructors will be removed from the course. Electronic devices must be on silent mode or turned off in the classroom. Laptops are to be used only for displaying the lecture slides and taking notes. **If you have any special needs that I should be aware of, please let me know as soon as possible. I am happy to make any arrangements that are necessary to be sure that everyone has an equal opportunity to learn and succeed.**

Grade Scale

Grade Range	Grade	GPA
93 - 100	A	4.0
90 - 92	A-	3.75
87 - 89	B+	3.25
84 - 86	B	3.0
80 - 83	B-	2.75
77 - 79	C+	2.25
74 - 76	C	2.0
70 - 73	C-	1.75
60 - 69	D	1.0
Below 60	F	0

Note that the University considers any GPA above zero a passing grade. Specific program requirements may vary.

Academic Dishonesty

Any form of cheating or academic dishonesty = automatic F and referral to The Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action. In addition, a "Z Designation" may be placed on the student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty, where the letter Z will precede the final grade for this course. For more information about the Z Designation, see http://z.ucf.edu/.

Unless specifically permitted all electronic devices must be inaccessible during tests. Use or display of any unauthorized electronic device will result in a zero for the test, referral to the office of student conduct, and a "Z Designation" on the student's official transcript.

Grading

The grading for each individual in the course breaks down as follows:
Includes:

1. **3 Exams** @ 100 points each (total 300 points). Exams will be drawn primarily from the book and lecture notes. All assigned reading and class discussion is fair game. Dates are shown below in the schedule.

2. **Quizzes** (100 points). There will be 6 “pop” (unannounced) quizzes during the semester, each worth 20 points. Your quiz grade will be based on the

highest 5 quiz scores. They will all be multiple choice or true/false. All assigned reading and class discussion is fair game.

Missed tests and quizzes

If you miss one of tests 1, 2, or 3, documentation is required to verify a legitimate reason for missing the test. If a properly documented excuse (e.g. from doctor, police, etc.) is provided, you will not take a make-up exam and your grade will be based upon the total value of your other tests and the quizzes grade. If you miss a second or subsequent test you must again provide acceptable documented evidence (e.g. from doctor, police, etc.) that circumstances beyond your control prevented you from taking the test, or that you were required to participate in official University business. A doctor's note must be on letterhead with a contact phone number, and must indicate that a medical condition was treated. In the absence of acceptable documentation a grade of 0 will be assigned for the second and subsequent missed tests. Makeup tests will be administered at any time during the semester at the discretion of the instructor if a second test is missed. One quiz may be missed without an excuse. In all cases for the quiz grade, students will drop their lowest quiz grade and receive the total of their other 5 quiz grades. Missed quizzes after the first unexcused, require documentation as described for tests, above.

Class participation

Throughout the semester we will be getting into small groups to discuss chapters, papers, and case studies of ecological/environmental problems that are relevant to conservation biology. During this part of the class I expect EVERYONE to show up, have done the reading, and have something to say about the readings.

Rounding up policy

If your final total across all grading components is less than or equal to one point below a higher grade, rounding up to the higher grade will occur if two of the three tests scored at the higher grade. For example, if your test scores were 84, 91, and 92 with a total of 267 (a B with 270 needed to get an A-), your final grade will be rounded up to an A- because two of the tests scored at 90 or above. **There will be no exceptions to this policy.**

Late for a test

If you arrive late for a test you will be allowed to take the test. However, you must turn in the test paper at the regular scheduled end of the test. You will not be allowed extra time unless a documentable emergency has occurred (see above).

Honor system for distribution of tests

To facilitate learning, tests 1 and 2 will be returned to the student. Test 3 will not be returned but can be reviewed by appointment with the instructor. By registering for this class each student agrees that the tests are the intellectual property of the instructor, Joshua King, and may not be sold, reproduced, shared, or used for any

purpose that would provide assistance to students in future classes. The contents of the test are to be shared only with individuals registered in this class.

Schedule

Jan	9	What is Conservation Biology? (Ch 1)
	11	Reading scientific literature: a primer (Lit)
	16	Forms of Biological Diversity (Ch 2-5)
	18	Forms of Biological Diversity (Ch 2-5)
	23	Forms of Biological Diversity (Ch 2-5)
	25	Population Decline and Extinction (Ch 6-10)
	30	Population Decline and Extinction (Ch 6-10)
Feb	1	Population Decline and Extinction (Ch 6-10)
	6	**EXAM 1**
	8	Population Decline and Extinction (Ch 6-10)
	13	Maintaining Biodiversity (Ch 11-14)
	15	Maintaining Biodiversity (Ch 11-14)
	20	Maintaining Biodiversity (Ch 11-14)
	22	Maintaining Biodiversity (Ch 11-14)
	27	Human Factors (Ch 15-17)
Mar	1	Human Factors (Ch 15-17)
	6	**EXAM 2**
	8	Case study: Fire ant wars
	13	NO CLASS
	15	NO CLASS
	20	Case study: Fire ant wars
	22	Case study: Vanishing southern grasslands
	27	Case study: Overfishing
	29	Case study: Ecosystem services of pollinators
Apr	3	Case study: Ecosystem services of insects
	5	Case study: Gopher tortoises
	10	Case study: Florida Grasshopper Sparrow
	12	Case study: Florida Grasshopper Sparrow
	17	Review
	19	Review

FINAL EXAM PERIOD: **EXAM 3**
Thursday, April 26, 2018: 1:00 PM – 3:50 PM