

Course Title & Number: **BIOL 834 Conservation Biology**
Credits: 3 semester
Class Time: ASY
Instructors: Dr. Nate Bickford, office DPSC 319
Contact information: Dr. Bickford's office hours, phone, 308-865-8410,
email bickfordna@unk.edu

Email will be the best way to contact me, however feel free to call if you need to have longer conversation. I will respond to you emails within 24 hours and if I do not email me again please.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Human activities are having a cumulative effect on the natural systems upon which life depends. Future land management impacts will likely entail unprecedented change in environmental conditions. More integration of the traditional natural resources fields will be required to develop innovative approaches to sustain resource development. Conservation Ecology provides insights to the many benefits and services that nature offers and explores strategies for management options to sustain ecological integrity and the production of goods and services. It is an emerging interdisciplinary approach to harmonizing the interactions between people and nature at ecosystem scales. The course is designed to explore the knowledge, theories, and research related to the total environment in which we practice conservation. Emphasis will be on the synthesis and integration of knowledge, skills and abilities that are needed as conservation issues become more complex. A problem-based learning format will require students to actively participate in their own learning by researching and analyzing real-life problems to arrive at "best" solutions.

II. COURSE MATERIALS:

Text & Supplies:

- 1) Essentials of Conservation Biology, 6th ed., Primack, ISBN 10: 978-1-60535-289-3
- 2) Three ring binder for handouts, tests, and quizzes. Bound Lab Notebook for lab.
- 3) Canvas access to class materials.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this course, you should:

1. Understand the basic principles of conservation: how the Earth is a finite natural resource.
2. Understand how humans affects our natural environment.
34. Generally understand the politics of conservation, including preservation of endangered species.
5. Have a basic knowledge of the history of conservation in North America.
6. Be able to conduct a simple (not easy) research project and write it up in a scientific style.
7. Be able to write a summary of a scientific paper so that it is easily understood by a lay person.

IV. Performance Assessment: Your grade will be determined based upon the total points earned on examinations, problem solving assignments, a laboratory notebook/reports and a paper. There is no provision for doing extra or outside work for improving your grade.

Read – Read - Read

Read the chapter that we are covering before class starts. That will usually consist of reading 20-30 pages a week. If you do not read you will have trouble with the tests.

Exam: There will be one exam scheduled for the semester (see course schedule). Materials to be evaluated include: 1) the material discussed during classes and the indicated chapters from the text, and 2) the material from the scientific papers, lab manual and handouts. If you have to miss an exam for any

reason, you will have to schedule a makeup time with the instructor and complete the makeup test within one week of the original exam date. **You will be allowed one makeup exam per semester.** The makeup exam may not be the same test as that taken by the rest of the class. Exam represent 100 points.

Final Project and Video: Pick a conservation problem near you and develop a full conservation plan for the area you have chosen.

You will need to visit the site and take stock of what is on the site for animals and vegetation. The area needs to stay in service to what it was before you make changes.

You will need to write up you report that will include: why is it important, changes made, what are your expectations, maps, cost, who needs to be convinced, who is paying for it, etc.

You will also need to create a 5 to 10 minute video as public information video. This is for the public so it needs to be interesting and moving as well convince the viewer that we need to make the changes. Additional information will be provided later.

Reading Writing Project: Will be a reading of multiple scientific papers. I want you to read each week and keep a journal about how the article is changing or informing your opinion on conservation. At the end of the semester you will have 16 entries and a summary of your thought process.

Short Research Papers: Two short ethic essays will be assigned on two different topics.

End of Chapter Questions: Do a few of the question in each chapter assigned

Discussions: There will be weekly discussions that will require you to post and respond. You must post an answer and then respond to someone else's post. Make sure your replies are coherent, written in proper English using correct grammar and have at least one reference (to back up your point).

Exam (1)	200 pts
Reading and Writing	100 pts
Research essays	200 pts
Final Project	150 pts
Final Video	100 pts
End of Chapter Q	200 pts
Discussions	200 pts

The grading scale used for this class is as follows:

A (93-100%), A- (90-92%), B+ (88-89%), B (83-87%), B- (80-82%), C+ (78-79%), C (73-77%), C- (70-72%), D+ (68-69%), D (63-67%), D- (60-62%), and F (below 60%).

In general, grades for the course will be assigned as:

A – Indicates that the work is markedly superior and is without major problems. It is an honors grade denoting that the goals for the.

B – Indicates that the work has met all of the requirements of the assignment or course at a level that is consistently above average.

C – Indicates satisfactory work that is consistently average and that meets the course goals at a sufficient level to pass.

D – Indicates the minimal achievement in order to earn credit, even though the work is below the standard required for good academic standing.

F – Indicates failure to complete an assignment or course, or work that does not fit into the requirements of the assignment or course.

Late assignments: Without a valid excuse, any assignment not turned in on time is a Late Assignment. Late assignments will be docked 10% of its total possible points per day, holidays and weekends excluded. So if a 40 pt Lab Report was due on Tuesday, you will receive 36 pts if you turn it in on Wednesday and 32 pts if you turn it in on Thursday. It does not matter if our next class will not meet until Thursday.

SUBJECT TO CHANGE *This syllabus and schedule are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances. If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to check on announcements or assignments made while you were absent.*

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with Disabilities or Those Who are Pregnant

Students with disabilities or those who are pregnant are encouraged to contact me for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska at Kearney to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to students with documented disabilities or those who are pregnant. To receive accommodation services for a disability, students must be registered with UNK Disabilities Services Coordinator, David Brandt, in the Academic Success Office, 163 Memorial Student Affairs Building, 308-865-8214 or by email brandtdl@unk.edu. For those needing accommodation due to pregnancy, you need to visit with Student Health. The following link provides information for students and faculty regarding pregnancy rights. <http://www.nwlc.org/resource/pregnant-and-parenting-students-rights-faqs-college-and-graduate-students>

Attached is the link to the above statement for your convenience. http://unkcms.unk.edu/offices/disability_services/

We recently received notice that we need to include the statement below regarding Sexual Misconduct, please insert it in your syllabus as well.

Reporting Student Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence or Sexual Assault

Reporting allegations of rape, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and stalking enables the University to promptly provide support to the impacted student(s), and to take appropriate action to prevent a recurrence of such sexual misconduct and protect the campus community. Confidentiality will be respected to the greatest degree possible. Any student who believes she or he may be the victim of sexual misconduct is encouraged to report to one or more of the following resources:

Local Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault Advocacy Agency 308-237-2599

Campus Police (or Security) 308-627-4811

Title IX Coordinator 308-865-8655

Retaliation against the student making the report, whether by students or University employees, will not be tolerated.

If you have questions regarding the information in this email please contact Mary Chinnock Petroski, Human Resources Director (petroskimj@unk.edu or phone 8655).

If you have an accommodation plan please see me as soon as possible, so we can make any arrangements necessary for your learning. No accommodations can be provided until a Reasonable Accommodation Plan is in place. Please remember, plans are not retroactive and cannot be used for assignments prior to the date of my signature.

