

**BIOLOGY 525
CONSERVATION BIOLOGY
SPRING 2007**

PROFESSOR: DR. H. E. SHEALY, JR.
OFFICE: ROOM 111D, SCIENCE BUILDING
OFFICE HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT
COURSE CREDIT: THREE CREDIT HOURS
LECTURE: TT 9:25– 10:40 AM, **RM 107, SCI BLDG**
PHONE/E-MAIL: 803-641-3404 / HSHEALY@USCA.EDU

PLEASE, READ THIS SYLLABUS CAREFULLY AND REFER TO IT WHEN YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COURSE.

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: IN RECENT TIMES WE HAVE SEEN AN UNPRECEDENTED LOSS OF HABITAT AND BIODIVERSITY ON OUR PLANET. WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THIS COURSE IT IS MY OBJECTIVE TO DISCUSS THE ISSUES, PRO AND CON, RELATED TO THE EVER GROWING DEBATE CONCERNING THE LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY. WE WILL SELECT SEVERAL OF THE MAJOR ISSUES FACING US TODAY AND DISCUSS THEM IN THE CONTEXT OF BIOLOGY, ECONOMICS, POLITICS, AND SOCIAL SCIENCE. WE WILL HEAR FROM EXPERTS WHOSE WORK IMPACTS ON CONSERVATION BIOLOGY. THE GOAL OF THIS COURSE IS TO RAISE EACH STUDENT'S AWARENESS OF THE DEBATE ITSELF AND THE UNDERLYING ISSUES, AND HOPEFULLY, EACH OF YOU WILL BECOME A MORE INFORMED CITIZEN AND VOTER. THE PRIMARY EMPHASIS OF THE COURSE WILL BE FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF BIOLOGY/ECOLOGY. OUR COMMON POINT OF REFERENCE IS THE TEXTBOOK AND LIKE ALL CONSERVATION BIOLOGY TEXTBOOKS, OF WHICH I AM AWARE, IT IS WRITTEN BY AN ECOLOGIST.

TEXT: PRINCIPLES OF CONSERVATION BIOLOGY, 3RD EDITION BY MARTHA J. GROOMS, GARY K. MEFFE, & C. RONALD CARROLL. PUBLISHED BY SINAUER ASSOCIATES, 2006.

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

HOUR EXAMS: THERE WILL BE THREE HOUR EXAMS. THEY WILL BE SUBJECTIVE AND YOU WILL NEED TO BRING AT LEAST ONE LARGE BLUE BOOK FOR EACH EXAM.

CLASS PROJECTS: IN GROUPS OF ONE TO THREE, STUDENTS WILL DO A CASE STUDY OF A PARTICULAR ISSUE IN THE AREA OF CONSERVATION BIOLOGY. THE CASE STUDY MAY BE LOCAL, REGIONAL, NATIONAL, OR GLOBAL. AS A GROUP YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A PAPER AND DO AN ORAL PRESENTATION AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER. WE WILL CONTINUE TO DEFINE THIS ASSIGNMENT. THE PAPER SHOULD BE SIX TO TEN PAGES OF TEXT IN LENGTH DOUBLED SPACE AND PROPERLY REFERENCED. THE PRESENTATION SHOULD BE TEN TO FIFTEEN MINUTES IN LENGTH. THE PAPERS ARE DUE ON **12 APRIL**. PRESENTATIONS WILL BEGIN ON **24 APRIL**.

READING ASSIGNMENTS: YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT FOUR PAPERS DEALING WITH AN ISSUE CONCERNING CONSERVATION BIOLOGY. THESE CAN COME FROM JOURNALS, POPULAR SOURCES SUCH A MAGAZINES, NEWS ARTICLES, POPULAR BOOKS OR EVEN SEMINARS DEALING WITH CONSERVATION BIOLOGY. THESE ARE DUE ON THE LAST CLASS DAY OF EACH MONTH. THEY WILL BE DONE IN A FORMAT THAT I WILL GIVE YOU IN CLASS. I WILL NOT ACCEPT NON-REFREED ARTICLES FROM THE INTERNET.

SPEAKERS: WE WILL OCCASIONALLY HAVE OUTSIDE SPEAKERS COME TO OUR CLASS. YOU WILL BE ASKED TO WRITE A CRITIQUE OF THE ISSUE THAT THEY DISCUSS IN CLASS. THE FORMAT FOR THE PAPERS WILL BE GIVEN IN CLASS.

YOU WILL BE OBSERVED IN CLASS DISCUSSIONS, QUESTIONS, AND OTHER CLASSROOM INTERACTIONS. THERE WILL BE NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO SPEAK AND WRITE ABOUT CONSERVATION BIOLOGY...**CLASS DISCUSSIONS AND QUESTIONS ARE ENCOURAGED!**

GRADE COMPONENTS:

LECTURE

THREE HOUR EXAMS.....	60%
CLASS PROJECT.....	20%
READINGS.....	10%
SPEAKERS.....	10%

GRADING SCALE:

100-93 = A; 92-88 = B+; 87-81 = B; 80-76 = C+; 75-70 = C; 69-65 = D+; 64-60 = D; 59-0 = F.

MAKE-UP EXAMS: THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS. SHOULD YOU MISS AN EXAM FOR A DOCUMENTED EXCUSABLE REASON; AN ALTERNATE EXAM MAY BE GIVEN DURING THE LAST WEEK OF CLASSES. ONLY ONE EXAM WILL BE TREATED IN THIS MANNER; ANY OTHER MISSED EXAMS WILL BE COUNTED AS A ZERO.

ATTENDANCE: STUDENTS WILL BE ALLOWED A TOTAL OF FOUR (4) UNEXCUSED ABSENCES FROM THIS COURSE. YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT I MAY IMPOSE A PENALTY FOR ABSENCES IN EXCESS OF FOUR OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED CLASS MEETINGS BY ASSIGNING THE GRADE OF "F" FOR THE COURSE. ATTENDANCE IS TAKEN FOR EACH CLASS. THEREFORE, I URGE YOU TO ATTEND ALL CLASSES, AND TO **BE PREPARED AND BE ON TIME**. REGARDLESS OF THE REASON YOU ARE ABSENT, **YOU ARE AWALYS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL CLASS ASSIGNMENTS.**

DISABILITY STATEMENT: IF YOU HAVE A PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND/OR LEARNING DISABILITY WHICH MIGHT AFFECT YOUR PERFORMANCE IN THIS CLASS, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES, 126A B&E, (803) 641-3609, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE DISABILITY SERVICES OFFICE WILL DETERMINE APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATIONS BASED ON MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION.

WRITING CENTER: USCA PROVIDES A WRITING CENTER LOCATED ON ROOM 201 OF THE H&SS BUILDING. IF YOU NEED EXTRA ASSISTANCE ON ANY WRITING ASSIGNMENT FOR THIS OR ANY OTHER CLASS THAT YOU ARE TAKING, PLEASE TRY THE WRITING CENTER.

WRITING PORTFOLIO: ALSO REMEMBER THAT WRITTEN WORK THAT YOU COMPLETE FOR THIS CLASS CAN BE INCLUDED IN YOUR WRITING PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENT. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE WRITING PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENT, PLEASE CONSULT YOUR CURRENT USCA BULLETIN.

TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE SPRING 2007 *

DATE	WEEK	TOPIC	CHAPTER
16-18	1	Introduction and Issues: What is Conservation Biology?	1
23	2	Global Biological Diversity	2
25		Threats to Biological Diversity	3
30 **	3	Conservation Values and Ethics	4
1 Feb		Ecological Economics and Nature Conservation	5
6	4	<i>Speaker</i>	*
8		Habitat Degradation and Loss	6
13	5	Habitat Fragmentation	7
15		EXAM I	*
20	6	Overexploitation	8
22		Species Invasion	9
27**	7	Biological Impacts of Climate Change	10
1 Mar		Biological Impacts of Climate Change	10
6	8	Conservation Genetics	11
8		<i>Speaker...9 March/ LAST DAY TO DROP w/ "W"</i>	*
12-16	9	SPRING BREAK...No Classes!!!!	*
20	10	Species and Landscape Approaches to Conservation	12
22		Ecosystem Approaches to Conservation	13
27	11	Protected Areas	14
29**		EXAM II	*
3 April	12	Restoration of Damaged Ecosystems and Endangered Populations	15
5		Sustainable Development	16
10	13	Integration of Conservation Science and Policy	17
12		Conservation Challenges of the 21 st Century/ PROJECTS DUE	18
17	14	<i>Speaker</i>	*
19		EXAM III	*
24	15	CLASS PRESENTATIONS	*
26**		CLASS PRESENTATIONS/Last Class	*
30	16	LAST DAY OF CLASSES	*
1-2 May		Reading days	*
3 MAY	17	FINAL EXAM...Thursday 8 AM	Comprehensive *

* ALL ASSIGNMENTS ON THIS LECTURE SCHEDULE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE!

** PAPERS ARE DUE THE LAST CLASS DAY OF EACH MONTH!