

University of Alberta

BIOL 367: Conservation Biology

Southern African Field School

Spring/Summer 2017

Instructor: Christine Bubac (PhD candidate; Department of Biological Sciences)
E-mail: bubac@ualberta.ca
Office hours: Upon request

Lecture time: M-F, time TBA
When: May 3 - June 4, 2017

Course Description: *3.

Conservation biology is a field dedicated to describing, protecting, and perpetuating biological diversity. As such, this course introduces the history and principles of conservation biology with an emphasis on ecological processes operating at the genetic, individual, population, community, and ecosystem levels of organization. Threats to biodiversity, including habitat destruction, overexploitation, climate change, and invasive species will be discussed with a focus of conservation solutions to these threats. Further, issues encountered in the implementation of conservation planning and policy in Africa, as well as in other areas of the world, will be presented.

Course Prerequisites: BIOL 208.

As many students participating with SAFS are concurrently enrolled in BIOL 208 and BIOL 367, basic principles of ecology will be reviewed before introducing any conservation-related topics that are reliant upon those principles.

Course Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:

This course aims to introduce students to the field of conservation biology, while actively engaging students in pressing conservation issues in Africa, as well as in other geographical locations throughout the world.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the foundational basis of conservation biology, the field's goals, and obstacles encountered in the implementation of conservation policy.
- Describe the hierarchy of biodiversity, ranging from genetic diversity to that at the ecosystem level.
- Critically assess threats to biodiversity and issues that may arise preventing the successful implementation of conservation strategies.
- Design a research project, and effectively execute that project by performing a literature review, analyzing data, and writing a scientific paper.

Required Textbook and Material:

- **Textbook-** There is no required textbook for this course. However, I recommend this (free) digital textbook if you wish to follow along with lecture material:

Sodhi and Ehrlich. 2010. *Conservation Biology for All*.
<http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/product/9780199554249.do>

Given the limited internet access, please see your instructor for a copy of the textbook.

- **Required readings-** Your instructor will provide you with articles when appropriate.

Additional Learning Assistance:

Students Eligible for Accessibility-Related Accommodations (students registered with Student Accessibility Services - SAS): Eligible students have both rights and responsibilities with regard to accessibility-related accommodations. Consequently, scheduling exam accommodations in accordance with SAS deadlines and procedures is essential. Please note adherence to procedures and deadlines is required for U of A to provide accommodations. Contact SAS (www.ssds.ualberta.ca) for further information.

Grade Evaluation:

Assessment and Grading Policy available at:

<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Policies/Assessment-and-Grading-Policy.pdf>

Grades are unofficial until approved by the Department and/or Faculty offering the course.

Assignment of Grades: The University of Alberta uses a letter grading system with a four-point scale of numerical equivalents for calculating grade point averages. The final grades in this course will be determined from the total raw score (from both lecture and lab) of all the students in this lecture section. This will be done after the final total raw scores are graded as percentages throughout term. Letter grades will NOT be calculated for individual course requirements and assignments. The following cut-offs will be used to assign letter grades:

Letter	Percentage
A+	90-100
A	85-89
A-	80-84
B+	77-79
B	73-76
B-	70-72

C+	67-69
C	63-66
C-	60-62
D+	55-59
D	50-54
F	0-49

Course Component	Weighting	Date
Ethogram & Behavioural Assignment	2.5%	May 12
Quotes Assignment	2.5%	May 15
Camera Trap/Aardvark Research Proposal	10%	May 22
Reflection Paper	5%	May 25
CSL-Shewula Village Activity	5%	May 26
Kruger National Park Assignment	5%	June 2
Midterm Quiz	10%	May 17
Presentation	5%	May 30
Literature Review	20%	June 1
Participation	5%	Throughout
Final Exam	30%	May 29

Format of Exams: The midterm quiz will be made up of short answer questions. The final exam will be a combination of short and long answer (i.e. essay) questions.

Missed Term Exams and Assignments:

A student who cannot write a term exam, quiz or complete a term assignment due to incapacitating illness, severe domestic affliction or other compelling reasons can apply for deferral of the weight of the missed term work/exam to other term work or term exam, or an extension of time to complete an assignment, or a make-up assignment. In all cases, instructors may request adequate documentation to substantiate the reason for the absence at their discretion. Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the *Code of Student Behaviour*. To apply, students need to fill out a declaration from the Faculty of Science (<https://www.ualberta.ca/science/-/media/science/research-and-teaching/documents/2013/department-declaration.pdf>) and submit either a signed paper copy or a signed scanned copy to the instructor within one day of the examination.

Deferred Final Examination:

A student who cannot write the final examination due to incapacitating illness, severe domestic affliction or other compelling reasons can apply for a deferred final examination. Such an application must be made to the student's Faculty office within two working days of the missed examination and must be supported by a Statutory Declaration or other appropriate documentation (Calendar section 23.5.6).

In all cases, the instructor may request adequate documentation to substantiate the reason for the absence at their discretion. Deferred examinations are a privilege and not a right; there is no

guarantee that a deferred examination will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferred examination is a serious breach of the *Code of Student Behaviour*. Students who failed at the start of term to request exam accommodations for religious beliefs are expected to follow the normal deferred final examination process.

**Note:* The deferred examination for this course will be set at a date and time determined by the instructor. As you are enrolled in a course with SAFS, the deferred examination will be scheduled upon your return to Edmonton, Alberta in August 2017. Students who miss the final exam, but are not permitted by the Faculty of Science to take a deferred exam, will receive a 0% for the exam.

Student Grievances:

Given that we are not on campus, if you have any grievances (i.e., grading or other academic issues, or any inappropriate misconduct) that you feel can not be discussed with your instructor or Manager of SAFS, please contact the Associate Chair of Undergraduate Students, Department of Biological Sciences, Dr. Jocelyn Hall (Email: jocelyn.hall@ualberta.ca; Phone: 780-492-8611).

Academic Integrity:

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All forms of dishonesty are unacceptable at the University. Any offence will be reported to the Associate Dean of Science who will determine the disciplinary action to be taken. Cheating, plagiarism and misrepresentation of facts are serious offences. Anyone who engages in these practices will receive at minimum a grade of zero for the exam or paper in question and no opportunity will be given to replace the grade or redistribute the weights. As well, in the Faculty of Science the sanction for **cheating** on any examination will include **a disciplinary failing grade** (NO EXCEPTIONS) and senior students should expect a period of suspension or expulsion from the University of Alberta.

Code of Conduct:

As students of the University of Alberta, you are expected to conform to the guidelines in the Code of Student Behaviour. The Code of Student Behaviour, as set out in the General Faculties Council (GFC) Policy Manual, is available online at www.governance.ualberta.ca. Outside of the classroom, students are also responsible for their actions and must abide by the Code of Student Behaviour. The Director has the authority to enforce the Code of Student Behaviour and in consultation with the Associate Dean, Undergraduate of the Faculty of Science deals with any

infractions. If serious offenses of misconduct occur while participating with SAFS, and thus with All Out Africa, you may be dismissed from the program.

Cell Phones:

Cell phones are to be turned off during lectures, labs and seminars. Cell phones are not to be brought to exams.

Recording and/or Distribution of Course Materials:

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Disclaimer:

Any typographical errors in this Course Outline are subject to change and will be announced in class. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

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