WIS 2552: Biodiversity Conservation: Global Perspectives

Section 2907
(Web Section)

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*The voice mail system on our phone has very limited space. If you wait until the last minute to call us the voice mail may be full.

Course Content:

The course is designed for students who wish to gain a global perspective of biodiversity patterns and issues. Students will learn about the origin, structure and measurement of biodiversity; the biology of species of different kingdoms; and patterns in species' distributions.

Course Objectives: This course satisfies 3 credits of the University of Florida’s General Education requirements for Biological Science (B), and for International Studies (N). The specific goals of the course are: (1) to familiarize students with basic concepts and scientific principles of conservation (genetics and ecology) and global patterns in biodiversity, both phylogenetic and geographical; (2) help students understand the evolutionary basis for the five kingdom system of phylogeny and the biological basis for various wildlife issues involving species from all five kingdoms; (3) develop an understanding of the future of biodiversity and the central role humans must play in this future.
COURSE MATERIALS

A course software packet entitled *Global Perspectives in Biodiversity Conservation* is required for this section and available for purchase at <www.faulknerpress.com> The packet includes 18 topics (presentations) and several reference reading chapters, but I am assigning just two, the ones entitled: (1) *Global Patterns in Biodiversity*   (2) *Sunquist Biodiversity essays (8 articles)*
eighteen Topics (or Presentations) with audio recordings; Test-banks for self-study for all the reference chapters and all topics.

GRADES

**Your grade** will be based on (A) Two online examinations (@ 20 points each = 40 points): (B) Six online exercises (6 at 10 points each = 60 points): (C) extra Credit 5 points.

A. Exams (40 points) There will be two multiple-choice exams each worth 20 points. These exams will only be available over a two-day period (see below) and you must complete the exam within that time span. Instructions for how to take the exam are listed below. Each exam will consist of 50 questions.

B. Online Exercises (60 points) There will be six online exercises, each will be worth 10 points. Each exercise will have 25 questions, and students will have 30 minutes to complete them. These may be re-taken using a different code up to 3 times.

C. Extra Credit (5 points)– Students who answer all the questions (*not just the first 10*) in each of the 18 software topics (for the 16 testbanks; testbanks for topics 9&10 and 17&18 are combined into one testbank for each) and submit it correctly by **11:59 PM Wednesday of the last week of classes**, will receive this extra credit.

Coverage for Exams:

**Exam I (complete by 11:59 PM on February 28, 2013)** will cover course Software Topics 1-8, Reference Chapter entitled: *Global Patterns in Biodiversity (practice questions for this are listed on the software under Global Patterns in Biodiversity Reference chapter)*

**Exam 2 (complete by 11:59 PM on April 18, 2013)** will cover course Software Topics 9 -18, Reference Chapter Readings entitled: (Can We Put Them All Back? Cowboys and Capybaras; Cute, Cuddly and Charismatic; End of the Ark; The Strange and Dangerous World of Foliovory; Zeroing in on Keystone Species; Two Species, One Design; Where Cats and Herders Mix).
(Practice questions for this set of readings are listed on the software under Sunquist Biodiversity Essays)

Optional Final (Must be completed by 11:59 PM on Wednesday May 1, 2013) – The comprehensive optional final exam may be used to substitute for Exam 1 or 2. There is thus a possibility for having 3 exam scores, of these I will count just the top 2 scores.

Coverage and Due Dates for On-Line exercises:

i. **Online Exercise 1** covers Course Software Topics 1-6
ii. **Online Exercise 2** covers Course Software Topics 7-8 and Reference Chapter (Global Patterns in Biodiversity)

**Online exercises 1& 2 must be finished by February 27, 2013 - 3:00 AM**

iii. **Online Exercise 3** covers Course Software Topics 9-15
iv. **Online Exercise 4** covers Course Software Topics 16-18 and Reference Chapter (Sunquist Biodiversity Essays – all 8 articles, see list of titles above)

**Online exercises 3 & 4 must be finished by April 24, 2013 -3:00 AM**

Completing the exams, online exercises, and extra credit

For each exam and online exercise I will post a three-letter code on Sakai. To take an exercise or exam, you will need to enter the appropriate code. I have posted a pdf file under "Resources" on Sakai to show you what the various screens in the software look like. You can follow these to see how to complete the online exercises, exams and the extra credit.

Re-taking exercises: *You only need to take each exercise one time.* However, If you are not happy with your score on a particular exercise you may re-take it using a new code posted under Resources on the Sakai course page. There are 2 codes for each exercise, but be aware that only the last one you complete is recorded. So if you earn a lower grade on a re-take that is the score that will be recorded.

Grades on Sakai

Approximately one day after the deadlines listed above, your grade will be posted on Sakai, and visible on Gradebook2. Thus, for the first deadline (February 27, 2013) your grade will be posted on Sakai. I will send you an email from Sakai informing you that the grades are posted. If you do not see your grade or if there is a problem you must notify me.
Why is my grade not posted on Sakai?

I download the grades from the server and post them on Sakai. It is not an automatic process. So sometimes a grade is not posted. There are 2 main reasons for your grade not appearing on Sakai. (1) The score was not sent properly (see next section for how to re-submit a score); or (2) the score was submitted after 3:00 AM on the deadline, which is when I downloaded the grades.

Re-sending exams and exercises

Scores for online exercises and exams should submit automatically. However sometimes they do not. Usually the problem is due to one of two things: first the UF system is very tight and might not have been allowing you access when you were completing the exam or exercise. The UF system often does denies access to programs. The solution here is to exit the program and re-login via Gatorlink. The second common reason is that something on your computer (like an anti-virus update) has decided to block your submission. But no worries as the scores and results are probably saved on your hard drive and you can just re-submit them using the following steps:

1) Open software and make sure it says "connected" in the little white box on the left side of the screen toward the bottom.

2) Click on "Assessment"

3) From the white menu bar choose "Online exercise 1" (Note: Click on Online exercise 1 even if it is a score for another exercise or exam --humor me here)

4) Click "Start"

5) Now look in the sub-window that opens below the little box where the code is to be entered, for the line of text that contains the code for the exam or exercise that is missing.

6) Click on that line of text to highlight it and then click "Send" at the bottom of the sub-window

8) Send us an email when once it has sent in so we can update your scores. It is your responsibility to notify us if there is a problem with a grade.

Completing the Extra Credit.

1. In the software the testbanks are located under the “Assessment” button. Click on this button on the first page of the software.
2. Click on the white bar at the top of the Assessment Window.

3. Click on “Topic Practice Questions”, you will see the testbanks for the topics listed.

4. After selecting a testbank, click on "Start" (upper left corner of the Assessment Window)

When you click the 'Start' button you will be given 10 questions, just choose the answer and use the arrow keys to move to the next question.

5. When you have answered 10, you will see that the "Start" button now says "Grade". Click the Grade button and it will tell you how many questions (=items) you answered correctly (thus if you answer 4 of the 10 questions correctly the box above the Grade / Start button will say Score 40). **This score has nothing to do with your grade -- your grade is solely based on completion of the testbanks.**

6. Now none of the topic testbanks have just 10 questions and the HW assignment is to **answer every question in each testbank correctly at least once**. So after you answer the first 10 in topic 1, click the Start button again and you will get another 10.

7. Keep doing this (you always get 10 questions when you click “Start”) until the small box below and to the left of the Start/Grade button says “**items remaining 0**”.

8. This part of the program was designed to be a study tool, so that’s why you just get 10 questions each time you click on Start. But there are usually 25-40 questions per testbank.

**Submitting the Extra Credit assignment**

see the pdf file under resources

**Grading Scale:**

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 - 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>85 – 89.4999</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 - 84.4999</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>75 - 79.4999</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 - 74.4999</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>65 - 69.4999</td>
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Note: I do not assign minus grades: Please go to the following site for information on the number of grade points for each grade:

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

Phone calls and messages:

The best way for students to get a message to the instructor is to come to office hours (see under "Resources" on Sakai). By all means feel free to telephone me but due to the number of students enrolled it might be a long time before I can return your call. **It is best for students attend office hours, slip a note underneath the door (Wildlife Issues Office N-Z 303), or arrange to meet outside of class, or email us.** When contacting the instructor by e-mail, phone message or note, please remember to keep it brief and include your name, UF ID, and contact information.

**Academic Honesty, Software Use, UF Counseling Services, Services for Students with Disabilities**

In 1995 the UF student body enacted a new honor code and voluntarily committed itself to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. When students enroll at the university, they commit themselves to the standard drafted and enacted by students.

In adopting this honor code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the university community. Students who enroll at the university commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the honor code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the honor code is bound by honor to take corrective action. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon community acceptance and enforcement of the honor code.

**The Honor Pledge: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.**

On all work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied: **"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."**

The university requires all members of its community to be honest in all endeavors. A fundamental principle is that the whole process of learning and pursuit of knowledge is diminished by cheating, plagiarism and other acts of academic dishonesty. In addition, every dishonest act in the academic environment affects other students adversely, from the skewing of the grading curve to giving unfair advantage for honors or for professional or graduate school admission. Therefore, the university will take severe action against dishonest students. Similarly, measures will be taken against faculty, staff and administrators who practice dishonest or demeaning behavior.

Students should report any condition that facilitates dishonesty to the instructor, department chair, college dean or Student Honor Court.

(Source: 2009-2010 Undergraduate Catalog)
It is assumed all work will be completed independently unless the assignment is defined as a group project, in writing by the instructor.

This policy will be vigorously upheld at all times in this course.

Software Use:

All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university’s counseling resources. Both the Counseling Center and Student Mental Health Services provide confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance. The Counseling Center is located at 301 Peabody Hall (next to Criser Hall). Student Mental Health Services is located on the second floor of the Student Health Care Center in the Infirmary.

- *University Counseling Center*, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, [www.counsel.ufl.edu](http://www.counsel.ufl.edu)
- *Career Resource Center*, CR-100 JWRU, 392-1601 ext: 0, [www.crc.ufl.edu](http://www.crc.ufl.edu)
- *Student Mental Health Services*, Rm. 245 Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, [www.shcc.ufl.edu/smhs/](http://www.shcc.ufl.edu/smhs/)

Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program (ASAP)

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

Center for Sexual Assault / Abuse Recovery & Education (CARE)

Eating Disorders Program

Employee Assistance Program

Suicide Prevention Program

Students with Disabilities

The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues.

0001 Reid Hall, 392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)