

WIS 2552: Biodiversity Conservation: Global Perspectives

Fall 2011

Section 4111 X

Carleton 100

Tue: Per 10 (5:10-6:00)

Thr: Per 10-11 (5:10 - 7:05)

Professor:

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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 available for purchase at < www.faulknerpress.com > The packet includes 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 topics. This packet is highly recommended but not required, all content is available on reserve at the Marston Science Library, and students may complete all assignments in a hard copy form – see the instructor.

Course Policies

Students should carefully read the following course policies.

1. Students with disabilities should inform the instructor as soon as possible and make an attempt to sit near the front of the class.
2. We do not discuss grades over email or the telephone. If you have questions regarding your grade come and see us in Newins-Ziegler Hall (303).
3. Avoid sending email messages that cannot be answered with a few words. In other words If you have issues that require any discussion whatsoever, you must come in and see us.

GRADES

Your grade will be based on (A) In-class closed book examinations (2 at 20 points each = 40 points): (B) On-line Exercises (4 at 15 points each = 60 points): (C) extra Credit 5 points.

A. Exams (40 points) There will be two regularly scheduled, multiple-choice exams in class, and each will be worth 20 points. These exams will be ***closed book*** and be held during regular class time (see schedule for your particular day). Each exam will consist of 50 questions.

B. Online Exercises (60 points) There will be four on-line exercises, each will be worth 15 points. These exercises will each have 50 questions, and students will have 60 minutes to complete these.

C. Extra Credit (5 points)– Students who answer all the questions in each of the 18 software topics and submit it correctly will receive the extra credit.

Coverage for Exams:

Exam I (October 13, 2011) will cover lecture material, in class films 1-4, 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 (December 1, 2011) will cover lecture material, in class films 5-9, 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 Folioivory; 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 (Wednesday -- December 14, 2011 at 5:30 PM) – The comprehensive (and closed book) optional final exam may be used to substitute for Exam 1 or 2. Note: The proctors will leave as soon as everyone in attendance finishes the exam. So if you arrive late there may be no one there. Students will have one hour to complete the exercise.

Coverage for On-Line exercises:

- i. **Online Exercise 1** covers **Course Software** Topics 1-6 (Target date 9/15)
- ii. **Online Exercise 2** covers **Course Software** Topics 7-8 and Reference Chapter (*Global Patterns in Biodiversity*) (Target date 10/6)
- iii. **Online Exercise 3** covers Course Software Topics 9-15 (Target date 10/27)
- iv. **Online Exercise 4** covers Course Software Topics 16-18 and Reference Chapter (*Sunquist Biodiversity Essays – all 8 articles, see list of titles above*) (Target date 11/24)

Completing the online exercises:

I will post codes for the online exercises under Resources on the Sakai site. You may do the exercises whenever you feel ready; the target dates are just to help you keep pace. Click on the "Assessment" tab (upper right of the software) then click the silver Menu tab and select "On-line exercise". Click the exercise you want to complete and hit "Start" it will prompt you for the code, which you then enter and then it asks if you are ready. At the end of the 50 questions click the silver Menu tab and then click "Grade". Your score will be sent to our server. During the exercise you will be locked out of the rest of the software.

Completing the Extra Credit.

1. In the software the testbanks are located under the button marked "Exercises and Assessments". Click on this bar on the first page of the software.
2. Click on the Menu tab (upper left corner of the window that opens).
3. Now you will see a box called "Topic Practice Questions", click on it and you will see a number of little open circles with names like Topic 1, Topic 2 and so on.
4. Click on the little circle next to Topic 1 and then click the button below that says "Start".

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. When you have answered 10, click the silver menu tab in the upper left corner again.

5. Now the 'Start' button says "Grade". Click it and it will tell you how many questions 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 on 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.

To submit the assignments, click on “File” in the upper left of the screen and then select “Send”. An Output window will open. On the left side will be the words “Work Statistics”. Click on this to highlight it and then click the send button below and to the right.

This will submit all your work to the server at faulkner. You can see your progress by logging into at the www.faulknermedia.com web site. When you open your account click on Practice to see your work.

Grading Scale:

Grade	Percentage
A	90 - 100
B+	85 – 89.4999
B	80 - 84.4999
C+	75 - 79.4999
C	70 - 74.4999
D+	65 - 69.4999
D	60 - 64.4999
E	< 60

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 a TA or the instructor is to come to office hours. By all means feel free to telephone either the instructor or the TAs but due to the number of students enrolled it might be a long time before we 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 or any of the TAs 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
- *Career Resource Center*, CR-100 JWRU, 392-1601 ext: 0, www.crc.ufl.edu/
- *Student Mental Health Services*, Rm. 245 Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, 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/