WIS 2552: Biodiversity Conservation: Global Perspectives

Web Section 006C

Summer A 2012

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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) 2 on-line Exams: (B) and 4 on-line Exercises. To take either of these or to use self-test under the Topic Practice Choice or Reading Practice Choice questions, first open the software and verify on the first page that you are "Connected". This is a small box on the left side of the screen. If it says "Not connected" close the software, login to your internet provider and then re-open the software. (Note: In our experience, this is mostly a problem for students on the UF campus who are not logged into UFW). Assuming you are connected, click on "Assessment" (Upper right side of the screen) to open the Assessment Window (Upper left of screen with the software open). You may then go to the white menu bar at the top of the page and select Topic Practice (or Reading Practice) Choice Questions (to test yourself on the material in the presentations and to complete the extra credit assignment); or On-line Exercise (for the exercises and the exams).

After making your selection, click "Start" upper left of the window.
When clicking on **Practice Choice Questions** (either the Topics or Readings) you will be given 10 questions each time you click "Start". This is set up to help you study the material. After answering each set of 10 click "Grade" and then check the "Items remaining" box at the top of the page. As you go through a topic’s questions the software keeps track of how many you have answered correctly. When all have been answered correctly at least once, the box will say "Items remaining 0". **None of the topic testbanks has just 10 questions; all have many more.**

For the exercises and the exam, after clicking "start", you will be prompted for a code (this will be 3 capital letters, and these will be posted under Resources on Sakai (at http://lss.at.ufl.edu). Then you simply enter the code, click "Start" and answer the questions. When finished click "Grade" (same button as "Start" it toggles).

**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 (students have 60 minutes to complete an exam) and may include questions not contained in the self-study topic practice question testbanks.

**B. Exercises (60 points)** There will be four online exercises. Each exercise will be worth 15 points and will include 50 questions. Students will have 60 minutes to complete each exercise. The exercises are based on a selection of questions from the self-study test banks for the Topic Practice and Reading Practice Choice questions. An exercise may be re-taken up to 3 times using a different code each time.

**C. Extra Credit (5 points)**– Students who answer **all** the questions (**not just the first 10**) in each of the 16 testbanks (for the 18 software topics testbanks for topics 9&10 and 17&18 are combined into one testbank for each) and submit it correctly by **11:59 PM Wednesday June 20, 2012**, will receive this extra credit.
Coverage for Exams:

Exam I (Available May 31-June 1, 2012 -- 11:59 PM) will cover course Software Topics 1-8, Reference Chapter readings (located on the right hand side of the first page of the software) entitled: *Global Patterns in Biodiversity* (practice questions for this are listed on the software under Global Patterns in Biodiversity Reference chapter)

Exam 2 (Available June 18 - June 19, 2012 - 11:59 PM ) 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 Foliory; Zeroing in on Keystone Species; Two Species, One Design; Where Cats and Herders Mix.* (practice questions for these readings are listed on the software under Reference Practice Choice Questions -- Sunquist Biodiversity Essays).

Optional Final (due by June 21, 2012 at 11:59 PM) – 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. Note:

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 and 2 are due by 11:59 PM, Fri - June 1, 2012**

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 and 4 are due by 11:59 PM, Wed. June 20, 2012** -

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 3 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.

Studying for the Exams, Exercises, and Extra credit

The topic presentations are found under the **Presentation** button on the left side of the screen when you first open the software. Note that the presentations are visual and have audio as well (the audio button is located at the top of the screen of each slide in each presentation). The exercises consist of questions based on the material in these presentations. The questions are drawn from the topic practice choice question testbanks.

**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 3 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. Do not take each exercise more times than needed.

Exams are one-shot affairs, so make sure you have studied before you take them.

**Submitting the Extra Credit assignment.**

See the pdf under Resources on the Sakai course page for instructions on sending in the extra credit: Grading Scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>&gt;89.5</td>
</tr>
<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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<td>D</td>
<td>60 - 64.4999</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>&lt; 60</td>
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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>

**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/)