Course Information	Instructor Information
WMAN 150	Jeff Anderson
Conservation Ecology (online)	Adjunct faculty, Davis College
CRN: 52408	West Virginia University
Maymester 2022	
Number of Credit Hours: 3	

Contact Information

Since this is an online course, the best way to contact me is through email: jkanderson@mix.wvu.edu

Due to the compressed nature of this course, I will do my best to respond to emails, and give feedback within an 18 hour window.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the discipline of conservation ecology. The first twothirds of the course focus on the many biological and ecological aspects of conservation ecology. The final third covers the practical aspects of implementing conservation actions, including the key problems to overcome (e.g., small populations), and an examination of the large variety of specific techniques used. In this course you will also learn about the many impacts that humans have on individual species, ecosystems, and global processes. We will use numerous case studies from around the world to illustrate specific principles. Be prepared to think and have an opinion about our role in natural ecosystems and the conservation of biological diversity.

Course Structure

1. All course materials are accessible from within eCampus, and eCampus will be used to turn in assignments, take part in discussions, and take quizzes and exams. This is a full semester (16 week) 3-credit course, compressed into a very tight timeframe. The course is set up as a

series of 14 separate modules and you are expected to complete a module every day (except weekends). To get started in this course, login to eCampus (https://ecampus.wvu.edu/webapps/login/) , select 202105-WMAN-150-MAY and then click on "Start Here" in the Course Menu.

Course Pre-requisites knowledge

This course does not require any pre-requisite knowledge or courses, although some background in biology, ecology, or environmental science should be helpful.

Course Textbook and Materials

Not Required

You will not need to buy a textbook to take this course, instead we will rely on a freely available (to WVU students) eBook from the WVU library:

Conservation Biology: Foundations, Concepts, Applications: 2nd edition; by Fred Van

Dyke. (off-campus access requires your WVU MyID username and password)

   Links to this and other readings are in the eCampus course modules

Learning Objectives

Course Learning Objectives

At the completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Describe the field of Conservation Ecology, including its historical development and its current application for attempting to conserve the earth's biological diversity (biodiversity).

2. Explain the species concept, including the difficulty in defining a species, and the importance of species as a primary focus of Conservation Ecology.

3. Summarize the many human-caused pressures that impact biodiversity, including human population growth, global climate change, and habitat loss and degradation.

4. Discuss the tremendous diversity of species and ecosystems around the world, and major patterns and processes of biodiversity, both past and present.

5. Use multiple ways to value biodiversity, and describe the variety of techniques that are used for the conservation of biodiversity, from conservation genetics to species- and ecosystem-oriented approaches.

Unit/Module/Week Learning Objectives

These objectives are provided within each module

Course Grading Policy

Components of Evaluation

Items*	# and Points	Total Points
Quizzes	14 @ 10 pts.	100**
Assignments	6 (variable pts.)	100
Discussions	4 (variable pts.)	50
Exams (Final)	1 @ 100 pts.	100
		Grand Total = 350

*Please see the requirements for specific items, and their due dates, in eCampus. **Based on the score of the 10 highest quizzes

Grading Scale

315-350	A
280-314	B
245-279	C
210-244	D
<210	F

Attendance/Participation

Preparation for class means reading the assigned readings and reviewing all information required for that day and/or module. Attendance in this online course means logging into eCampus every day and participating in the activities that are posted in the course.

Late or Missed Assignments

I will accept late work, but please check the course calendar, To Do List (in Course Home) and My Grades regularly to keep on top of items and their due dates. Points will be deducted for lateness, unless you notify me BEFORE the due date to make other arrangements.

Feedback response time

I will generally reply to email within a few hours. Often I will reply much more quickly, but please plan accordingly so that you don't miss deadlines.

I generally grade and return assignments, etc. within a day of when they are due (if submitted on time). If you would like to get help on an assignment ahead of the deadline, please email me! I'm happy to give preliminary feedback or answer questions.

I will accept late work, but please check the course calendar, To Do List (in Course Home) and My Grades regularly to keep on top of items and their due dates. Points will be deducted for lateness, unless you notify me BEFORE the due date to make other arrangements.

Feedback response time

I will generally reply to email within a few hours. Often I will reply much more quickly, but please plan accordingly so that you don't miss deadlines.

I generally grade and return assignments, etc. within a day of when they are due (if submitted on time). If you would like to get help on an assignment ahead of the deadline, please email me! I'm happy to give preliminary feedback or answer questions.

Daily Course Schedule (subject to change)

Day	Module	Assignments/Assessments/Discussions
	1. Principles of Conservation Ecology - Introduction	❏ Introduction Forum ❏ Discussion: Global populations ❏ Quiz
	2. Introduction to Biodiversity	❏ Discussion: Genetic diversity ❏ Quiz
	3. Patterns and Value of Biodiversity	❏ Species Essay ❏ Quiz
	4. Extinction / Reading Scientific Articles	❏ Quiz

Day	Module	Assignments/Assessments/Discussions
	5. Patterns of Extinction	❐ Quiz
	6. Climate Change	❐ Discussion: Global climate change ❐ Quiz
	7. Habitat Loss and Degradation	❐ Local Fragmentation Assignment ❐ Quiz
	8. Overexploitation	❐ Discussion: Ocean resiliency/shifting baseline ❐ Quiz
	9. Invasive / Exotic Species	❐ Case Study ❐ Quiz
	10. Environmental Contaminants	❐ Quiz
	11. Problems with Small Populations	❐ Genetic problem set ❐ Quiz
	12. Population Biology	❐ Population problem set ❐ Quiz

	13. Conservation Genetics	❐ Quiz
	14. In situ and Ex situ Conservation	❐ De-extinction Essay ❐ Quiz
Final Exam	Final Exam	❐ Optional Extra Credit (20 pts.)

How to Succeed in this Course

- Check your eCampus email regularly

- Log into eCampus daily

- Read all course announcements

- Communicate with your instructor

- Create a study schedule so that you don't fall behind on assignments

Academic Integrity

The integrity of the classes offered by any academic institution solidifies the foundation of its mission and cannot be sacrificed to expediency, ignorance, or blatant fraud. There fore, I will enforce rigorous standards of academic integrity in all aspects and assignmen ts of this course. For the detailed policy of West Virginia University regarding the definiti ons of acts considered to fall under academic dishonesty and possible ensuing sanction s, please see the Student Conduct Code http://campuslife.wvu.edu/r/download/180235. Should you have any questions about possibly improper research citations or reference s, or any other activity that may be interpreted as an attempt at academic dishonesty, pl ease see me before the assignment is due to discuss the matter.

Inclusivity Statement:

The West Virginia University community is committed to creating and fostering a positiv e learning and working environment based on open communication, mutual respect, an d inclusion. If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with the Office of Accessibility Services (293-6700). For more information on West Virginia University's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives, please see http:/ /diversity.wvu.edu.

Technical Requirements

Students need to have access to a computer for word processing, e-mail and access to eCampus. Access to the Internet is necessary for completion of this course.

Run the Browser Check at https://ecampus.wvu.edu/BrowserCheckLearn9/BrowserCheck.html. This tool will check that you are using a supported Internet browsers and have a valid Java version installed.

The required technical skills to participate in this course are:

1. Navigate the web
2. Use email with attachments
3. Create and submit files in commonly used word processing program formats
4. Copy and paste
5. Download and install software
6. Consult software tutorials and other online sources as a method of learning software features

For all areas of support, the main point of contact is Information Technology Services. Please call (304) 293-4444, email ITSHelp@mail.wvu.edu, or log your technical issue at http://it.wvu.edu/support/service-desk. eCampus resources can be found at http://ecampusinfo.wvu.edu/.

Tech Support:

If you have technical issues, the first place to go is the OIT Service Desk. They follow the WVU Calendar and will be closed a few days during the Winter Intersession and their hours between terms are also shortened.

 Service Desk Contact #: 304-293-4444

Most Common Technical Issue:

Expired Passwords are a very common issue. If your password is expired, you cannot access any of the systems and if you try too many times to update without success you may lock your account. If your password will be expiring during the Winter course, go ahead and reset it so you don't have any issues. Directions for updating your password are at: https://it.wvu.edu/services/login-tutorials . The password can be changed at: https://login.wvu.edu/self-service .

Course Netiquette

The basic premise is that the etiquette expected of students in the online environment is the same as that expected in a classroom. Common courtesy is the guiding rule of Internet communications. Be prepared to communicate effectively when taking an online course. Following these simple netiquette rules in your online class or education environment will ensure your success:

- Never type in ALL CAPS, because it reads as if you ARE SHOUTING AT PEOPLE.
- Act as professionally, via your writing, as you would in a face to face classroom.
- Refrain from inappropriate language and derogatory or personal attacks.

- Do not dominate any discussion. Give other students the opportunity to join in the discussion.

- Disagree with ideas, but avoid challenges that may be interpreted as a personal attack.

- Check that you are replying to the specific person you intend, and not to the entire class.

- Never give your password to another person.

- Respect the virtual classroom. Never forward in-class communications or posts by others outside of this virtual space.

- Never spam your classmates.

- If you quote someone's previous post, only quote enough to make your point.

Be aware of the University's Academic Integrity and Dishonesty Policy

http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/coursecreditstermsclassification/#academicintegri tytext.

You can review the rules, regulations, and procedures concerning student conduct and discipline for the main campus of West Virginia University, at http://campuslife.wvu.edu/r/download/180235.

Syllabus Disclaimer
The instructor views the course syllabus as an educational contract between the instructor and students. Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as deemed necessary. Students will be notified in a timely manner of any syllabus changes face-toface, via email or in the course site announcements. Please remember to check your eCampus email and the course site announcements often.

Technical Support Contact Information
Please contact Information Technology Services at http://its.wvu.edu/.

Information Technology Services

Phone: (304) 293-4444

Toll Free: 1(877) 327-9260

Email: ITSHelp@mail.wvu.edu