

Course number		U-LAS14 20021 LE68					
Course title (and course title in English)		Conservation Biology-E2 Conservation Biology-E2		Instructor's name, job title, and department of affiliation		Wildlife Research Center Associate Professor,Andrew MacIntosh	
Group	Natural Sciences		Field(Classification)		Biology(Issues)		
Language of instruction	English		Old group	Group B		Number of credits	2
Number of weekly time blocks	1	Class style	Lecture (Face-to-face course)		Year/semesters	2025 • First semester	
Days and periods	Mon.5		Target year	All students		Eligible students	For science students
[Overview and purpose of the course]							
<p>With the onrushing of human development at the expense of the Earth's natural resources, we have now entered a new geological epoch: the ‘ Anthropocene ’ . The human footprint on the Earth has never been greater and it is said that the world's biodiversity is now in the midst of the ‘ sixth extinction ’ . This is where the relatively new science of conservation biology comes in. In this course, students learn about threats to biodiversity, loss of ecosystem services, extinction, and the importance of conserving nature, from individual species to entire ecosystems.</p>							
[Course objectives]							
<p>In this course, students will learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assess how human activities contribute to biodiversity loss and what can be done to prevent it - weigh the costs and benefits of exploiting natural resources while considering social, economic, political and ecological factors simultaneously - appreciate the importance of nature and natural reserves to human health and well-being - engage in conservation activities and design ‘ conservation strategies ’ to reduce their own footprints on planet Earth 							
[Course schedule and contents)]							
<p>This course will be conducted in 4 parts, as described below. In principle, each topic within each part reflects one class, but the order and spacing of topics may be moved depending on the flow of the course or the occurrence of specific events related to the course material.</p> <p>*Note that there will be a midterm exam held during the 8th week of class. Details will be announced in advance during class.</p> <p>**Note also that students are expected to find and discuss a conservation-related news story each week to supplement in-class material.</p> <p>Part 1 - introducing conservation biology</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a brief overview of the field of conservation biology 2. biodiversity: how it is measured and why it matters 3. the biodiversity crisis and biological extinctions <p>Part 2 - threats to biodiversity</p>							
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4. habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation
 5. over-harvesting and human use of natural products
 6. invasive species
 7. climate change
 8. infectious disease

Part 3 - conservation strategies and action

9. endangered species protection
10. protected and unprotected conservation areas
11. sustainable development
12. public outreach and education

Part 4 - the conservation biologist in you

13. student presentations of conservation biology term project

***during this course, students will design a project related to any area of conservation biology, which will be submitted and presented during the final class of the year. Some class time each week will be devoted to discussion of project progress.

[Course requirements]

None

[Evaluation methods and policy]

attendance and class participation - 10%
student projects - 30%
mid-term - 30%
final exam - 30%

[Textbooks]

Richard B. Primack and Anna A. Sher 『An Introduction to Conservation Biology』 (Sinauer Associates, Inc. Publishers, 2016) ISBN:9781605354736 (should be available online at Amazon (or other online book retailer) or directly from publisher's website. Consult with University Co-op for other options)

[Study outside of class (preparation and review)]

Students should read the relevant sections of the textbook before classes to enhance participation and understanding. The instructor will inform students which sections of the book to read for the following week. Also, students must also find at least one conservation-related news item each week during the course to stay up-to-date with current events. Each lecture will include time for student discussion related to these news items. The mid-term and final examinations will be based upon both lecture material and items covered in the textbook. Finally, a term project requires students to develop and complete a project related to any area of conservation biology. Topics and progress will be discussed with the instructor on an ongoing basis throughout the course.

[Other information (office hours, etc.)]

This course has no scheduled office hours, but the instructor is happy to receive emails and meet either before or after class by appointment.

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in class discussion, ask a lot of questions, and get involved in

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conservation activities near you!

[Essential courses]