NRM/BIOL 277: INTRODUCTION TO CONSERVATION BIOLOGY Spring Semester 2017

Meeting Time: Tuesday and Thursday 11:30 AM -1:00 PM

Classroom: Arctic Health Research Building (AHRB) Room 183 on the UAF Fairbanks campus.

<u>Instructor</u> Gino Graziano, **Instructor of Invasive Plants and Forest Health**<u>Office</u>: Gino Graziano, **Office located in Anchorage, call or e-mail 786-6315, email =**<u>qagraziano@alaska.edu.</u>

Office Hours - (arrange in advance to confirm) Tuesday & Thursday 9:00-11:00 am; Monday, Wednesday, Friday by appointment (9:00 to noon preferred). Gino is available via phone, or video call.

Graduate Teaching Assistant Lori Beraha.

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Course Text

Conservation Biology For AII, by Navjot S. Sodhi and Paul R. Ehrlich can be downloaded for free at: https://www.mongabay.com/conservation-biology-for-all.html
Chapter readings are also posted to Blackboard.

Conservation Biology Issue report

Each student will choose a conservation biology issue to develop a comprehensive report that students will build on throughout the semester. Reports will use the course topics as a general outline, with required elements to address in the report provided by the instructor as learning objectives. Approximately every other week students will turn in written versions of the report and present to the class their topic as it pertains to the associated learning objectives. Topics selected may be either, conservation of a specific area (e.g. watershed, National Park, Wildlife Reserve), species, habitat type, or natural resource. Topics will be approved by the instructor to ensure that it is of proper complexity to complete the project. Students are encouraged to pursue their own interests in choosing a report.

Supplemental Readings (to be posted on the course Blackboard site)

Current scientific journals, resource management articles, and news/analysis articles

Course Description

This course will provide an overview of:

(1) the principles of the science of conservation biology and the contributions of several different integrative levels (molecular, physiology, genetic, population, ecology, earth system, and social science) of interdisciplinary science to problems in conservation biology

Grading Policy

I. Writing assignments (first 6) - 20% of Course Grade

Students will be expected to write a 1-2 page summary of their conservation topic as it pertains to outlined learning objectives that address the previous chapter lessons and assigned readings. Writing assignments w

understanding for concepts.

- 3. Discussing readings as they pertain to the student chosen conservation topic will improve written and oral assignments, and the process of developing ideas for those assignments.
- 4. Attendance is a tangible demonstration of the seriousness of the student toward the course.

IV. Final paper - 20% of Course Grade

Students will be expected to write a 10-12 page summary of their conservation topic as it pertains to outlined learning objectives that address the previous chapter lessons and assigned readings, and all comments made by the instructor. Final papers will be graded on turning in the assignment on time, clarity of writing, punctuation and grammar, citation of appropriate scientific literature and reports related to the conservation topic, organization of larger technical report, and covering each learning objective with an appropriate level of depth to a) demonstrate student understanding of the learning objective, and b) is appropriate for the chosen conservation topic. The final paper will build on the most pertaining to the topic. The final paper must address the prior comments from the instructor provided on all the previous writing assignments and the final class presentation.

The goals are to:

- 1. Provide students the opportunity to pursue a conservation biology topic they are most interested in.
- 2. Build technical writing skills.
- 3. Provide the opportunity to demonstrate understanding of learning objectives in a written form.
- 4. Build skills in searching for, understanding, and citing scientific literature.
- 5. Build skills in compiling and organizing a large report.
- 6. Build skills in responding to comments provided by reviewers, in this case the instructor.

V. Final Presentations - 20% of Course Grade

The last three class periods will be set aside for students to present their final reports. Each student will give a presentation lasting approximately 20 minutes with an additional 10 minutes allowed for questions and

include visual aids as appropriate. Students will be graded on the organization and clarity of the presentation, appropriate use of visual aids, covering the topics in enough depth to provide a basic understanding of the topic, and response to questions and comments. The final presentation will build on the most pertinent concepts and provide final summary recommendations for appropriate conservation goals and actions pertaining to the topic.

The goals are to:

- 1. Provide students an opportunity to orally present their summaries, and recommendations for conservation goals and actions that pertain to the chosen topic.
- 2. Provide an opportunity for all students to understand the variety of conservation topics chosen.
- 3. Give students experience in summarizing a large report within a strictly limited time for presentation, making sense of it, and identifying the most relevant points to reach conclusions.