**Conservation Biology**  
BIOL 3350  
Spring 2020

**Instructor:** Jessica L. Coleman, MS.  
**Office:** BEP 114  
**Email:** jcoleman@uttyler.edu  
**Phone number:** (903) 565-5889  
**Office hours:** Tuesday 9am – 12:pm, Wednesday 1:30pm – 3:30pm, or by appointment

**Course Objectives:** Conservation Biology is the scientific study of the phenomena that affect the maintenance, loss, and restoration of biological diversity. Topics covered include 1) the impacts of global warming, species invasions, and habitat destruction on biodiversity, 2) strategies developed to combat these threats, and 3) a consideration of key economic and ethical tradeoffs. Special attention will be paid to current debate and controversy within this rapidly emerging field of study.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** After this class, you should be able to…

- To define conservation biology and understand how it is different from other ecological disciplines
- To demonstrate an understanding of the ecological principles upon which conservation are based
- To recall patterns of biodiversity including its many hierarchical levels
- To discern the primary threats to biodiversity
- To be able to make informed conservation decision of local, national and international concerns
- To have a clear understanding of how society shapes conservation efforts, including the forces of economics, policy, ethics, and institutions


**Grading:**

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<tr>
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<th>Points Possible</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussions</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>150</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>500</strong></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Distribution</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>500 – 448</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td></td>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>447 – 398</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>70-79%</td>
<td>397 – 348</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td></td>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>347 – 298</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>0-59%</td>
<td>297 – 0</td>
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**Exam policy:** There will be three regular exams during the semester. All exams could include multiple-choice, short answer, compare and contrast, and essay questions. The material for each exam will be from the lecture, textbook and class discussions. Remember the textbook is a reference that is used to assist you with the lecture material! No exam will be curved!
**Make-up Exams:** If you are unable to take an exam when scheduled due to documented emergency (e.g. death in family, severe illness requiring hospitalization), a make-up exam will be arranged **ONLY** if the instructor is notified and arrangements are made **IN ADVANCE.** Additionally, you must take the exam **before** the regularly scheduled exam time.

**Class Discussions:** Periodically throughout the semester we will have class discussions of current conservation issues. I will assign reading ahead of time, and I will usually post them on Canvas. In order to have interesting and worthwhile discussions on these conservation issues, it is essential that everyone participate in these discussions. Your participation in these discussions is part of your grade for this class. If you missed a class where there is a discussion you will not get credit for that day’s discussion.

**Term Paper:** All term papers will be completed in the form of a “review article” within the Journal of Conservation Biology. Information about the manuscript length and format will be provided to you on Canvas. You can also visit the journals website for additional information. Students will pick one of the review topics listed below (a particular focus for these topics will need to be narrowed down as you gather the current literature):

1. Habitat corridor effectiveness – particularly of large corridors as opposed to smaller ones characterized by over-passes and the like.
2. Resource over-exploitation (includes hunting & fishing)
3. Habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation
4. Exotic species (includes direct impacts and genetic pollution/hybridization impacts)
5. Pollution & Disease (includes air pollution, water pollution, land pollution or as a result of agricultural practices)
6. Genetically modified species and the impact on animals
7. Climate change (in regards to either mitigation, economics, impacts/adaptions, threats to a particular species etc..)

An individual could suggest another topic, but it needs to be approved by the instructor. Each review paper will need a **minimum of 15 studies** relevant to the topic; this does not include background literature that sets the context for the work (typically a **minimum of five papers** are need to set the context for the work). For this paper we will turn in a **draft mid-way** through the semester to received feedback prior to final submission. The first Draft of term paper will be **DUE Friday, March 6th.** The final term paper is due the **TWO weeks before** finals week (**Due Date: Monday, April 16th**).

**Attendance:** Attendance is essential to success in this class. If you miss class it is your responsibility to contact another student (not the instructor) to get notes and other announcements made during class.

**Academic Integrity:** Students should be aware that absolute academic integrity is expected of every student in all undertakings at The University of Texas at Tyler. Failure to comply can result in strong university-imposed penalties. For instance, submitting plagiarized work to meet academic requirements including the representation of another’s work or ideas as one’s own (this includes copying other authors words; the unacknowledged word for word research results shall be grounds for charges of academic misconduct. Any cheating or other types of academic misconduct will be reported to the university administration and at a **minimum** will result in an automatic failure of the course.
**Students Rights and Responsibilities:** To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: [http://www2.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php](http://www2.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php)

**Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies:** Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at [http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar](http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar). Each semester’s Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three-course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware of. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

**State-Mandated Course Drop Policy:** Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date). Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

**Disability Services:** In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychiatric disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, PTSD or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources office and schedule an interview with the Accessibility Case Manager/ADA Coordinator, Cynthia Lowery Staples. If you are unsure if the above criterion applies to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call 903.566.7079. You may also send an email to cstaples@uttyler.edu

**Student Absence due to Religious Observance:** Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

**Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities:** If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.
Social Security and FERPA Statement: It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation: Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor’s directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

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<th>Schedule of Topics</th>
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<td><strong>Topics</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Defining Conservation Biology</td>
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<td>What is Conservation?</td>
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<td>What is Biodiversity?</td>
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<td>Where is the Biodiversity</td>
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<td>The Value of Biodiversity</td>
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<td>The Value of Biodiversity</td>
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<td>Indirect Economic Values</td>
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<td>Environmental Ethics</td>
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**Exam I – *February 20th*  
 Threats to Biodiversity  
 Extinctions          | 7,8 |
 Habitat Destruction | 9  |
 Over exploitation, Invasive Species & Disease | 10 |
 Conservation a Populations and Species levels  
 Problems of Small Populations | 11 |
 Applied Population Biology | 12 |
 Establishing New Populations | 13 |
 Ex Situ Conservation Strategies | 14 |

**Exam II – *March 29th*  
 Practical Applications  
 Establishing Protective Areas | 15 |
 Designing Networks of Protective Areas | 16 |
 Managing Protective Areas | 17 |
 Conservation Outside Protective Areas | 18 |
 Restoration Ecology | 19 |
 Conservation and Human Societies  
 Conservation and Sustainable Development | 20 |
 An International Approach to Conservation | 21 |
 An Agenda for the Future | 22 |

**Exam III – Finals Week : TBD**

*Tentative Exam dates*

Last Day to Drop with a “W” – March 30th, 2020