

Extinction of Species
ZOO/FWE/ENV STUDIES 360
Fall 2017 Course Description

When and Where: MWF, 2:25-3:15 pm, Room 1125 Biochemistry

Instructor: Dr. West holds primary responsibility for the overall organization of the course and all lectures. She holds office hours by appointment that allow you to meet with her in person and ask questions. You should contact her if you have questions about lecture material, lecture assignments, exams, your overall performance in the course, or want general advice on ecological/conservation careers. Questions about lab/discussion assignments, logistics, or grades should be directed to your TA.

Dr. Elena West, A229 Russell Labs

E-mail: elena.west@wisc.edu

Discussion Instructors: Teaching Assistants assist with every aspect of the course and teach three discussion sections each. *Your teaching assistant will be your primary contact and source of information for this course.* They also hold office hours by appointment. You should go to them with questions about discussions, assignments, and review of lecture material. They also can provide advice on the course or field of conservation in general. Teaching Assistant contact information is below:

| TA | Email | Office Location | Sections |
|----------------|--|-------------------|---------------|
| Kristin Brunk | kbrunk@wisc.edu | 120 Russell Labs | 301, 311, 314 |
| Mario Garces | garcesrestre@wisc.edu | A226 Russell Labs | 304, 305, 312 |
| Colleen Miller | cmiller4@wisc.edu | B26 Russell Labs | 303, 309, 315 |
| Maia Persche | persche@wisc.edu | 120 Russell Labs | 302, 306, 313 |
| Brad Smith | gbsmith3@wisc.edu | A224 Russell Labs | 310, 307, 308 |

Lectures: The topic of extinction and loss of natural biological diversity is complex and global with potential effects on all elements of society. Lectures will cover a diverse, interrelated set of topics, and guest lectures will be presented by speakers with special expertise and experience. For lectures given by the instructor, pdf files of presentations will be posted on the course website (Canvas), generally prior to lecture. Lecture materials may or may not be made available by guest lecturers. **Please be aware that Dr. West reserves the right to make changes to lectures that can lead to some inconsistencies between posted lecture slides and lectures themselves.** In addition, you will see that slides are not always heavy on text, so getting slides online cannot replace attending class. You are responsible for the material covered in lecture.

Lecture Expectations: You are expected to attend all lectures. Students are responsible for all material in lecture whether or not they attend. Course instructors cannot catch students up on lecture material if they miss class. Out of respect for everyone in the class, please turn off cell phones and participate fully in class. Laptops or other electronic devices may be used to take lecture notes. However, if the use of a laptop or electronic device distracts from the course in any way (e.g. internet surfing unrelated to class,

checking e-mail, etc.), the instructors reserve the right to ask students to shut down the device or to leave the classroom.

Lecture Assignments: You will be given short lecture assignments on a regular basis, which will be announced during lecture. You will be asked to think about a particular problem or question and provide your best thoughtful answer. The goal of these assignments is to demonstrate critical thinking skills and understanding of course material, and in many cases there will not be a “right” answer. These assignments will be graded out of 2 points (2 = well thought-out and articulated answer, 1 = completed the assignment, but answer was incorrect or could be better thought out or articulated, 0 = did not complete the assignment). The top 80% of these assignments will be taken as your final lecture assignment grade. There are no make-up assignments allowed, whether unexcused or excused (but note that the worst 20% of scores will be dropped regardless).

ZOO/FWE/ENV STUDIES 360 website: The Canvas course website <https://canvas.wisc.edu/courses/63655> is the place to go for day-to-day course information. It will contain the latest revisions of lectures, discussion section forums, homework assignments, plus information and documents for discussion. Answers to frequently asked questions can also be found here. Our website is updated regularly. All students registered for this class have been enrolled as users on the site for this class. You can access this site from your MyUW page. If you have problems accessing the site, please contact DoIT at 264-HELP.

Discussion Sections: The 50-minute weekly discussion is an essential component of the course as **40% of your grade will be determined there. Attendance is mandatory and will be taken every section. Each absence will lower your final grade, and without active participation in discussion sections, you will not do well in this course.** In these discussions, you will have the opportunity to discuss and debate a series of important and controversial issues in conservation. Discussions will generally be centered on scientific or popular articles, videos, and podcasts that will be assigned each week, although lecture materials will serve as a source of information to be considered in discussions as well. Discussion sections will be led by the TAs listed above.

Reading Assignments: Readings for Discussion Sections are posted on Canvas and will supply the material for discussion sections. Without an understanding of discussion readings, you will be unable to participate in discussion sections and are unlikely to be successful in this course. Concepts from discussion readings will also appear on exams.

There is no required textbook. However, **students are encouraged to purchase** and read the following text, which will support much of the lecture materials presented in the class:

Richard Primack. 2014. *Essentials of Conservation Biology*. Sinauer Associates, 6th edition.

Writing Assignment

Details about the writing assignment, which will be focused on issues associated with the recovery of endangered species will be provided in your weekly discussion section within the first few weeks of discussion section meetings.

Exams: There will be two non-cumulative exams, which will both be written in the same format. Each exam will cover material from lecture, assigned discussion readings, and potentially other course assignments, but will emphasize material covered in lecture. Exams will begin promptly at the start of the period and will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. When exams are given, desks must be entirely empty with the exception of pencils and erasers. Please put all of your belongings below your desk on exam days.

Grading: Your grade will be based upon two exams, writing assignments, and attendance and participation/performance in your discussion section. The contribution of each of these components to your final grade will be as follows:

Exam 1: 15% (Friday, Oct. 27, in class)

Exam 2: 15% (Wednesday, Dec. 20, location TBD)

Lecture assignments: 10%

Writing Assignment: 20% (Due Dec. 8)

Discussion section performance: 40% (breakdown will be provided in discussion section)

Final grades will be assigned according to weighted percentages of your scores in these five areas:

92-100% = A, 88-91.99% = AB, 82-87.99% = B, 78-81.99% = BC, 70-77.99% = C, 60-69.99% = D, <60% = F.

***We do not "round up".**

Disability Services: Students who are seeking disability information or support for a disability should contact the McBurney Center <http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu/information/mission.php> or 263-2741. The McBurney Center is responsible for approving and helping to arrange all accommodations for UW-Madison students. *If you require special accommodations for exams or other lecture activities, **please see Dr. West or one of the TAs immediately so that these accommodations can be made well in advance of exam dates or other course deadlines.*** Bring your McBurney documentation to support your request.

Your success in this class is important to us. If there are circumstances that may affect your performance in this class, please let us know as soon as possible so that we may work together to develop strategies for adapting assignments to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course.

Academic Integrity and Ethics: Evidence of plagiarism, cheating or attempted cheating will be handled by the staff following published UW-Madison policies. A confirmed cheater will receive a failing grade for the course. The situation may be referred to the office of the Student Assistance and Judicial Affairs, and a Dean for further action. Please refer to the undergraduate student Academic Misconduct information on the UW-Madison website at: <http://students.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html>.

Course Materials

The course description (this document), discussion syllabus, reading list, discussion reading materials, section forums, and writing assignment details can be accessed on Canvas. Please note that some of these documents will be posted after the semester has begun.