

GEO 3372: Conservation of Resources  
Time: M, W, F | Period 6 (12:50 pm – 1:40 pm)  
Location: Matherly Hall (0016)  
Fall 2023

**Instructor:**

Anusha Chaudhary

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My phone: 904-322-4904

Office hours: 10 am – 11:30 am (Tuesday and Thursday) at 1215 Turlington Hall and zoom via appointment.

**Course Description:**

This course is an introduction to the major themes in human-environment relations that determine how we conserve and utilize the earth's resources. It will cover the importance of conserving resources and assess different conservation strategies. While the themes in this course apply to all natural resources, the class will primarily focus on biodiversity conservation.

**Course Objectives:**

By the end of the course students will:

1. Identify the major threats to natural resources and common conservation strategies
2. Practice applying conservation strategies
3. Reflect on the feasibility and usefulness of different conservation strategies
4. Respectfully debate issues from multiple perspectives
5. Examine controversial conservation topics from multiple perspectives
6. Critically assess the effectiveness of different approaches to conservation
7. Prioritize conservation efforts
8. Propose solutions to conservation challenges
9. Appraise their own work and the work of their peers
10. Develop collaboration skills

**Required Materials:**

1. Mulder, M.B., and Peter Coppolillo. *Conservation: Linking Ecology, Economics, and Culture*.: Princeton University Press, 2005. \*Available online through course reserves
2. Additional readings available through course reserves or Canvas
3. Required Technology: You will need a computer or phone with camera and microphone capabilities, Zoom, and a high-speed internet connection. In-person students are requested to bring a laptop or tablet to class to complete activities (please inform the instructor if you are unable to do so). **If you experience technical issues, please contact the UF help desk first and then inform the instructor of the issue.**
4. Students must use their UF zoom and google accounts for class.

## **Communications:**

Students are responsible for reading posted announcement/Canvas emails and for listening to verbal announcements in class sessions. Please contact me through Canvas email and I will generally respond within 1 business day. If you do not receive a response within 1 business day, please re-send the email through Canvas to ensure it was received.

## **Class etiquette:**

- General
  - Treat instructor and classmates with respect in all interactions (synchronous and asynchronous)
  - Be open-minded
  - Protect your password and ensure no one has access to your account
- Zoom (if online)
  - Log in before class begins
  - Keep your camera on during class to facilitate participation
  - Use the hand raise reaction to request a turn to speak or type questions in the chat box
  - Speak clearly, limit background noise, and keep yourself muted when not speaking
  - Please dress appropriately (as you would in a live classroom)
  - Use only professional names/images during zoom meetings
- In-person
  - Arrive promptly
  - **Wear masks according to UF policy**
  - Always maintain 6 feet distance
  - Bring a laptop or tablet to work on the course material and intra-class assignments.
  - Expected to stay engaged and participate for the entire class period.
- Emails
  - Use a descriptive subject line
  - Be brief
  - Sign your email with your name
  - Avoid using "reply all" unless necessary

## **Course components:**

Attendance- 10%

Class participation- 20%

Assignments - 10%

Quizzes -15%

Reflection journals- 15%

Position paper/Final Presentation-30%

## **Attendance Policy:**

Attendance is required. Each student is allowed 2 unexcused absences, excused absences must comply with [University of Florida policy](#). Please inform the instructor of any excused absences prior to the absence whenever possible.

### **Zoom Policy: (for Online Classes only)**

Participation in our class is fundamental since improving collaborative skills is a key objective of the course. Thus, students are required to have their cameras on from start to finish during our classes on Zoom. A default setting for our sessions in Zoom is that participants will be muted when they enter, so you will unmute yourself when you comment orally during our whole-group conversations and when you are in small groups. Your instructor may also ask students to reply in the chat box for specific activities. Oral comments on camera and written comments in the chat box are considered activities for participation. If you have technical issues, please immediately consult UF IT Help to resolve them and then contact your instructor. Zoom sessions will not be recorded by the instructor and may not be recorded by students. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded material is prohibited.

### **Class Participation:**

Participation in class activities and discussions is. In-class activities and/or homework may be assigned and will count toward the participation grade. Students will receive a progress report on their participation grade midway through the semester and can request feedback at any point. Specific expectations will be discussed and determined in class and updated to the course policy page in Canvas.

### **Reflection Journal:**

Students will implement conservation strategies into their daily lives and reflect on this experience. Reflection submissions can be submitted in a variety of formats from written documents, videos, brochures, infographics etc.

### **Quizzes:**

For each module students will take a quiz both individually and in teams to assess their preparedness for the class. These quizzes are based on the modules' readings and videos. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

### **Position Paper:**

Students must select a conservation challenge that is of interest to them. The topic can be related to material covered in this class or to topics outside of the scope of the course provided it fits within the scope of natural resource conservation. Students will then explore this topic throughout the semester focusing on at least two opposing stakeholder perspectives for the position paper. Deliverables include a topic selection, a draft position paper, peer reviews of classmates, and a final position paper that incorporates peer review feedback. The position paper draft and final will be submitted to Turnitin and any score over 25% will not be graded.

### **Late policy:**

If students have a valid excuse for missing a deadline, this should be communicated to the instructor prior to the due date whenever possible and an extension can be granted. Without a valid excuse, late work may not be accepted. If you have any concerns about deadlines, please speak to the instructor prior to the deadline whenever possible.

**Grade Return Timing:**

Assignments will be graded and returned within 1 week. Please review the graded rubric and submission comments before contacting the instructor about assignment grades.

**Course Schedule:**

Note: The schedule is subject to change.

<b>Module/Topic</b>	<b>Class meetings</b>
Introduction	Week 1
Module 1: Many Roads to Conservation	Week 1
Module 2: Biodiversity patterns	Week 2
Module 3: History of Protected Areas	Week 3, 4
Module 4: Protected Area design	Week 4,5
Module 5: Indigenous people as conservationists	Week 5,6
Module 6: Who is a conservationist?	Week 7
Module 7: Conservation and self-interest	Week 8,9
Module 8: The commons	Week 10
Module 9: Global issues, economics, and policy	Week 11
Module 10: How to act	Week 12, 13
Module 11: Future of Conservation	Week 14
Module 12: Ethics in Conservation	Week 15

**Grading Scale:**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Scale</b>
A	93-100	C	73-<77
A-	90-<93	C-	70-<73
B+	87-<90	D+	67-<70
B	83-<87	D	63-<67
B-	80-<83	D-	60-<63
C+	77-<80	E	<59

**Course Evaluations:**

Student feedback is greatly appreciated and taken seriously. Course evaluations are conducted online through canvas. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester. Students will be notified via email when the online evaluation page is open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at [gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/](http://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/).

**Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities:**

Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the [Disability Resource Center](#) (352-392-8565). Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter that must be provided to the instructor when requesting accommodations. This letter should be submitted as early in the semester as possible.

### **University of Florida Policy on Academic Misconduct:**

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the [UF Student Honor Code](#). Students in violation of the honor code will be reported to the Dean of Students and receive a zero for the assignment. Examples include, but are not limited to: plagiarism, unapproved collaborations, using unapproved resources during quizzes/exams, and consulting quiz answer banks online. If a student violates the honor code, they will receive a 0 on the assignment.

### **Statement on Intellectual Property Rights:**

Course materials prepared by the instructor, together with the content of all lectures and review sessions presented by the instructor are the property of the instructor. Video and audio recording of lectures and review sessions without the consent of the instructor is prohibited. On request, the instructor will usually grant permission for students to audio tape lectures, on the condition that these audio tapes are only used as a study aid by the individual making the recording. Unless explicit permission is obtained from the instructor, recordings of lectures and review sessions may not be modified and must not be transferred or transmitted to any other person, whether or not that individual is enrolled in the course.

### **Additional Resources:**

- [U Matter, We Care](#): If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352-392-1575
- [Counselling and Wellness Center](#): (352-392-1575) for information on crisis and non-crisis services
- [Student Health Care Center](#): For health concerns
- [E-learning technical support](#): For technical support (352-392-4357 or [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu))
- [Career Resource Center](#): Reitz Union Suite 1300 for career assistance and counseling
- [Writing studio](#): 2215 Turlington Hall (352-846-1138) for help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers
- [Teaching Center](#): Located in Broward Hall, they provide general study skills and tutoring

**\*\*Syllabus is subject to change, please follow Canvas and in-class announcements for up-to-date information**