

GEO 3372: Conservation of Resources

Fall 2025

Schedule: Monday (12:50 pm – 2:45 pm) in TUR3012
Wednesday (12:50 pm – 1:40 pm) in TUR3018

NOTE: This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see UF's "[Academic Policies and Resources](#)" web page.

Instructor:

Anusha Chaudhary

Email: anusha.chaudhary@ufl.edu

Office hours: 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm on Wednesdays at 1215 Turlington Hall or zoom via appointment.

Course Description:

This course offers an introduction to the key themes shaping human-environmental interactions, with a focus on how societies conserve and manage the Earth's natural resources. Students will explore the significance of resource conservation and critically examine a range of conservation strategies used around the world. While the course addresses broad themes relevant to all natural resources, special emphasis will be placed 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

Course Schedule:

Note: The schedule is subject to change.

S. no.	Week/Topic	Contents
1	Week 1: Let's Cover All the Bases!	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Lecture2. Mini Test 13. Discussion 1: Trophy Hunting4. Assignment 1: History Matters5. Position Paper Review
2	Week 2: Exploring the Biodiversity Around the Planet	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Lecture2. Mini Test 23. Assignment 2: Spot Hotspot4. Lab 15. Position Paper Topic
3	Week 3: Protected Areas: What, Why and Where?	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Lecture2. Mini Test 33. Discussion 3: Movie Time4. Reflection Journal 1
4	Week 4: Conservation Planning	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Lecture2. Mini Test 43. Discussion 4: Habitat Conservation Policies4. Lab 2 - Design Protected Area
5	Week 5: Indigenous People as a conservationist?	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Lecture2. Mini Test 53. Lab 3 - Where are the Reserves?4. Discussion 5: The Rights of Nature
6	Week 6: Who is a Conservationist?	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Lecture2. Mini Test 63. Assignment 3 - What kind of Conservation Space I want?4. Position Paper Draft
7	Week 7: The Classic Conundrum	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Lecture2. Discussion 7: Landcover Change No Mini Test
8	Week 8: Conservation and Self - Interest	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Lecture2. Mini Test 83. Discussion 8: Movie Time4. Reflection Journal 2

9	Week 9: Rights and Conservation	1. Lecture 2. Mini Test 9 3. Peer Reviews
10	Week 10: Global Issues, Economics, and Policy	1. Lecture 2. Mini Test 10 3. Discussion 9: Rhino Horn Debate
11	Week 11: Taking Action in Conservation	1. Lecture 2. Mini Test 11 3. Assignment 4: Conservation Example
12	Week 12: Innovation in Conservation	1. Lecture 2. Mini Test 12
13	Week 13: Ethics in Conservation	1. Lecture 2. Field Work Exercise 3. Final Position Paper

Course components:

- Attendance - 10%
- Class participation - 20%
- Assignments - 10%
- Quizzes - 15%
- Reflection journals - 15%
- Final Position paper - 30%

Required Materials:

Instructional materials for this course consist of only those materials specifically reviewed, selected, and assigned by the instructor(s). The instructor(s) is only responsible for the instructional materials listed below.

1. Krausman, P. R., & Cain, J. W. (Eds.). (2022). *Wildlife management and conservation: contemporary principles and practices*. JHU Press. (Available for purchase on Amazon)
2. Mulder, M.B., and Peter Coppolillo. (2005) *Conservation: Linking Ecology, Economics, and Culture*.: Princeton University Press(Available online through UF Libraries: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctv301g4w> .Please use your GatorLink ID to log in.)
3. Additional readings available through Canvas

Required Technology:

1. Offline Class - 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).
2. Online Class (in case of emergency) - You will need a computer or phone with camera and microphone capabilities, Zoom, and a high-speed internet connection. The camera must always be on during the lecture. **If you experience technical issues,**

please contact the UF help desk first and inform the instructor of the issue.

Students must use their **UF** zoom and google accounts for class.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI):

"While students might use generative AI tools to support independent study practices (e.g., creation of extra practice problems, brainstorming of ideas), content created in whole or in part by AI must not be incorporated into any assigned coursework."

In this course, the use of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT or Adobe Firefly) is not permitted during the completion of any assigned work. Use of a generative AI tool to complete assigned work in whole or in part may be referred under the Code of Student Conduct academic dishonesty provisions for further action by the Dean of Students Office. Students may use generative AI tools to support their independent study of course topics but should do so with the understanding that generative AI tools may not be trustworthy.

Class etiquette:

- General
 - Treat instructor and classmates with respect in all interactions (synchronous and asynchronous)
 - Go through all the instructions thoroughly for each assignment.
 - Be open-minded
 - Protect your password and ensure no one has access to your account
- In-person
 - Arrive promptly
 - 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

Communications:

Students are responsible for reading posted announcement/Canvas emails. Please contact me through Canvas email and I will generally respond within 1-3 business days. If you do not receive a response within 3 business days, please re-send the email through Canvas to ensure it was received.

Discussion Participation:

Participation during the course activities and discussions is mandatory. Students can request feedback at any point. Specific expectations will be communicated via announcements or individually via canvas inbox and updated to the course policy page in Canvas.

Quizzes:

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

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.

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.

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.

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 in accordance with the [UF Grading Policy](#) and returned within 1 week of the assignment's due date. Please review the graded rubric and submission comments before contacting the instructor about assignment grades.

Grading Scale:

Grade	Scale	GPA	Grade	Scale	GPA
A	93-100	4.0	C	73-<77	2.0
A-	90-<93	3.67	C-	70-<73	1.67
B+	87-<90	3.33	D+	67-<70	1.33
B	83-<87	3.0	D	63-<67	1.0
B-	80-<83	2.67	D-	60-<63	0.67
C+	77-<80	2.33	E	<59	0.0

Procedure for Conflict Resolution

Any classroom issues, disagreements or grade disputes should be discussed first between the instructor and the student. If the problem cannot be resolved, please contact Dr Gabriela Hamerlinck (ghamerlinck@ufl.edu, 3522949051). Be prepared to provide documentation of the problem, as well as all graded materials for the semester. Issues that cannot be resolved departmentally will be referred to the University Ombuds Office (<http://www.ombuds.ufl.edu> ; 352-392-1308) or the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu> ; 352-392-1261).

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