

# GEO 3372: Conservation of Resources

Time: M,F Period 8 (3:00-3:50)

Location: online (Zoom)

Fall 2020

## Instructor:

Leandra Merz

Email: [leandra6@ufl.edu](mailto:leandra6@ufl.edu)

Geography Department Phone: (352)392-0494 (this will not reach me personally)

Office hours: Monday/Friday 10:30am-12:00pm or by appointment via Zoom

## 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. Explain each of the major themes that determine how we utilize natural resources
2. Practice applying conservation strategies
3. Reflect on the feasibility and usefulness of different conservation strategies
4. Respectfully debate issues from multiple perspectives
5. Critically assess the effectiveness of different approaches to conservation
6. Select the most appropriate conservation strategy and defend this decision
7. Propose solutions to conservation challenges
8. Appraise their own work and the work of their peers
9. 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. If you experience technical issues please contact the UF help desk (Links to an external site.) first and then inform the instructor of the issue.

## Communications:

Students are responsible for reading posted announcement/Canvas emails and for listening to verbal announcements in virtual class sessions. I will generally respond to Canvas emails within 1 business day. If you do not receive a response within 1 business day please re-send the email 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
  - Log in before class begins at 3:00 pm (preferably 5 minutes before)
  - 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
- Emails
  - Use a descriptive subject line
  - Be brief
  - Sign your email with your name
  - Avoid using "reply all" unless absolutely necessary

## Course components:

Attendance- 10%

Class participation- 35%

Quizzes-15%

Reflection journal- 15%

Position paper-30%

## Attendance Policy:

Attendance is required. Each student is allowed 1 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.

## Class Participation:

Participation in class activities and discussions is required. Students are expected to be respectful of their peers. In-class activities and/or homework may be assigned and will count toward the participation grade. Students will have on-on-one meetings with the instructor twice during the semester. Students will receive a progress report on their participation grade midway through the semester and can request feedback at any other 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. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

## Position Paper:

Students must select a conservation challenge or strategy 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 different 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 incorporated peer review feedback.

## 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 will be accepted up to 24 hours after the deadline with a 10% penalty on the final grade. 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:

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Week 1	Course overview, review the syllabus, and expectations
Week 2	Module 1: Many Roads to Conservation
Week 3	Module 2: Biodiversity patterns
Week 4	Module 3: Ecology
Week 5	Module 4: Indigenous people as conservationists
Week 6	Module 5: Conservation and self-interest
Week 7	Module 6: The commons
Week 8	Module 7: Political ecology
Week 9	Module 8: Global issues, economics, and policy
Week 10	Module 9: How to act
Week 11	Module 10: Red flags
Week 12	Module 11: Case studies
Week 13	Module 11: Case studies

Week 14	Final presentations
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## Grading Scale:

Grade	Scale	Grade	Scale
A	93-100	C	73-<77
A-	90-<94	C-	70-<73
B+	87-<90	D+	67-<70
B	83-<87	D	63-<67
B-	80-<83	D-	60-<63
C+	77-<79	E	<60

## 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.

## 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 see the Canvas syllabus page for the most up-to-date version**