GEO 3372: Conservation of Resources
Summer B 2025
Asynchronous

Instructor:
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Office hours: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm on Monday via zoom.

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!	1. Lecture 2. Mini Test 1 3. Discussion 1: Introduce Yourself 4. Activity 1: History Matters 5. Position Paper Topic
2	Week 2: Exploring the Biodiversity Around the Planet	1. Lecture 2. Mini Test 2 3. Activity 2: Spot Hotspot 4. Discussion 2: Trophy Hunting 5. Lab 1 6. Position Paper Draft
3	Week 3: Protected Areas: What, Why and Where?	1. Lecture

		2.	Mini Test 3
		3.	Activity 3: Movie Time
		4.	Lab 2
		5.	Discussion 3: Habitat Conservation Planning
4	Week 4: Who is a conservationist?	1.	Lecture
		2.	Mini Test 4
		3.	Activity 4: What kind of Conservation Space do I want?
		4.	Discussion 4: The Rights of Nature
		5.	Peer Reviews
5	Week 5: Global Issues, Economics, and Policy	1.	Lecture
		2.	Mini Test 5
		3.	Activity 5: Sabie Game Park
		4.	Discussion 5: Rhino Horn Debate
6	Week 6: Taking Action and Shaping the Future of Conservation	1.	Lecture
		2.	Mini Test 6
		3.	Activity 6: Conservation Example
		4.	Discussion 6: Virtual Field Trip
		5.	Final Position Paper

Course components:

- Discussion participation - 20%
- Activities – 20%
- Quizzes - 30%
- 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 through course reserves/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:
You will need a computer or phone with a high-speed internet connection throughout the course. If you experience technical issues, please contact the UF help desk first and inform the instructor of the issue. Students must use their UF accounts for this course.

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 to 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
- 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.

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 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

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/.

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 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)
- 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