Faculty of Science Course Syllabus
Department of Biology

Nature Conservation (BIOL 3601)
Winter 2017

Instructor: Rajesh Rajaselvam  Email: Rajesh.Rajaselvam@Dal.Ca  Office: LSC 3082
Office Hours: Tuesday/Friday 14:30 – 15:30 pm, Thursday by appointments

Lectures: Tuesday & Thursday 13:05 – 14:25 hrs (LSC/C240)

Tutorials: 5 tutorials (120 min/tutorial)
Monday 14:35 – 16:25 pm (LSC/C202, C214, C216, C332 & C334)

Course Description
This interdisciplinary course explores relationships between humans and the natural world, including damage caused to species and ecosystems. The course looks at environmental ethics and world views, environmental philosophy, sustainability, and conservation science and actions, including the establishment of protected areas. The ultimate focus will be on combating threats to nature, and major conservation challenges. This interactive course emphasizes student involvement and participation.

Course Prerequisites
BIOL 1010.03 (or BIOL 1020.03 or BIOA 1002.03) or BIOL 1011.03 (or BIOL 1021.03 or BIOA 1003.05); or SCIE 15XX, or permission of instructor.

Course Textbook

Learning Objectives

- Describe need of nature conservation.
- Understand impacts of threats and challenges to biodiversity.
- Demonstrate basic environmental ethics and sustainability.
- Enable conservation decision making on national and international concerns.
- Demonstrate deeper knowledge of a specific conservation topic through formal group oral presentation and report writing.
- Discuss nature conservation literature.
Course Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment, Exam, or Presentation</th>
<th>Marks %</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quiz 1</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>Feb 09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Feb 28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation (group presentation)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mar 14, 16, 21 &amp; 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz 2</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>Mar 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab/Seminar Reports</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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Oral Presentation
Students are expected to do a 10 + 2 minute power point presentation (Group) on their chosen topic related to Nature Conservation.

*Evaluation rubric
Evaluate the presentation by checking the grade the student achieved in the following categories:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>MARKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The presentation was well organized.</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The topic on ‘Conservation’ was covered in a clear and understandable fashion.</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The presentation was very well timed.</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation resources were incorporated and used effectively.</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The student/group responded effectively to questions posed by the audience.</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main points were effectively summarized at the end of the presentation.</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall grade: Total (out of 30) is reduced to out of 10</td>
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Grading Scale
Conversion of numerical grades to Final Letter Grades follows the Dalhousie Common Grade Scale

- A+ (90-100)
- B+ (77-79)
- C+ (65-69)
- D (50-54)
- A (85-89)
- B (73-76)
- C (60-64)
- F (<50)
- A- (80-84)
- B- (70-72)
- C- (55-59)
Course Policies

Class participation is considered vital.

Tutorial/Seminar sessions are compulsory. Complete attendance of all lectures is highly recommended, since it helps to improve your grade significantly.

Meeting deadlines is mandatory. No late submission without valid reason is accepted for marking.

Brightspace (course web-tool) will be used for regular updates and announcements. TAs are the first point of contact (unless for major issues), and copying the instructor on messages is highly recommended.

Course Content

Schedule (Tentative)

A. Lectures

Week 1
Jan 10 - Course Introduction, Humans: The dominant ecological force (T1 Chap 1)
Jan 12 - Why conservation is needed I: Biodiversity and extinction (T1 Chap 2)

Week 2
Jan 17 - Why conservation is needed II: The value of valuing nature (Current issues)
Jan 19 - Saving a species/ Gorillas on the brink (Pre tutorial session)

Week 3
Jan 24 - Protected areas: A cornerstone of conservation (T1 Chap 5 & 6)
Jan 26 - Parks and Protected Areas in Canada (T2 Chap 13)

Week 4
Jan 31 - Choosing conservation actions (T1 Chap 9 & 11)
Feb 02 - The guide: Movie on “Gorongosa restoration story” (Pre tutorial session)

Week 5
Feb 07 - The performance and potential of protected areas: Discussion session
Feb 09 - Canada’s Parks, Quiz 1 …8 Marks

Week 6
Feb 14 - Reversing deforestation I (T1 Chap 13, T2 Chap 11)
Feb 16 - Reversing deforestation II (T1 Chap 13, T2 Chap 11) & Midterm Review

Week 7: Study Break

Week 8
Feb 28 - Midterm Exam (13:05 – 14:25 hrs @ C240)...24 Marks
Mar 02 - Introduction to students’ oral presentation

Week 09
Mar 07 - Balancing agriculture and conservation (T1 Chap 14, T2 Chap 10)
Mar 09 - Managing fresh water for people and nature (T1 Chap 15)

Week 10
Mar 14 & 16 - Students’ Presentation ...... 10 Marks

Week 11
Mar 21 & 23 - Students’ Presentation ...... 10 Marks

Week 12
Mar 28 - Pre Tutorial Session, Quiz 2 ...... 8 Marks
Mar 30 - Sustainable marine fisheries: Discussion session (T1 Chap 15, T2 Chap 9)
Week 13
Apr 04 - Making conservation a success story & End-Term revision
Apr 06 - Open Topic, Individual question period
**Final Exam (TBA/Scheduled by Registrar) ...30 marks**

**B. Seminar/Tutorial sessions**
*Attendance Mandatory, (4 x 5) = 20 marks*
Jan 23: Tutorial 1: Gorillas on the brink / Movie review *(Report required)*
Feb 06: Tutorial 2: “Gorongosa” : Restoration story *(Report required)*
Feb 27: Tutorial 3: Paper critique/Final submission *(Report required)*
Mar 06: Tutorial 4: Topic/Discussion on oral presentation (group activity)
Mar 13: Tutorial 4: Oral presentation/PPT preparation and submission (group activity)
Apr 03: Tutorial 5: Conservation poster *(Report required/Hard-copy)*

**Accommodation Policy for Students**
Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic protected under Canadian Human Rights legislation. **Student Accommodation Policy:**
[http://www.dal.ca/campus_life/student_services/academic-support/accessibility.html](http://www.dal.ca/campus_life/student_services/academic-support/accessibility.html)
Students who require accommodation for classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams should make their request to the **Advising and Access Services Centre (AASC)** prior to or at the outset of the regular academic year. More information and the **Request for Accommodation** form are available at [www.dal.ca/access](http://www.dal.ca/access).

**Academic Integrity**
Academic integrity, with its embodied values, is seen as a foundation of Dalhousie University. It is the responsibility of all students to be familiar with behaviours and practices associated with academic integrity. Instructors are required to forward any suspected cases of plagiarism or other forms of academic cheating to the Academic Integrity Officer for their Faculty.

**Policy on Intellectual Honesty** and **Faculty Discipline Process:**
[https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html)

**Student Code of Conduct**
Dalhousie University has a student code of conduct, and it is expected that students will adhere to the code during their participation in lectures and other activities associated with this course.

**Copyright**
All members of the Dalhousie community are expected to comply with their obligations under Canadian copyright law. Dalhousie copyright policies and guidelines, including our Fair Dealing Guidelines, are available at [http://www.dal.ca/dept/copyrightoffice.html](http://www.dal.ca/dept/copyrightoffice.html).

**Services Available to Students**
The following campus services are available to all Dalhousie students. Unless noted otherwise, the services are free.

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<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Support Provided</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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| **General Academic Advising**  | Help with - understanding degree requirements and academic regulations - choosing your major - achieving your educational or career goals - dealing with academic or other difficulties | Killam Library Ground floor Rm G28 **Bissett Centre for Academic Success** | In person: Killam Library Rm G28  
By appointment:  
- e-mail: advising@dal.ca  
- Phone: (902) 494-3077  
- Book online through MyDal |
| **Dalhousie Libraries**        | Help to find books and articles for assignments  
Help with citing sources in the text of your paper and preparation of bibliography | Killam Library Ground floor Librarian offices | In person: Service Point (Ground floor)  
By appointment:  
Identify your subject librarian (URL below) and contact by email or phone to arrange a time:  
| **Studying for Success (SFS)** | Help to develop essential study skills through small group workshops or one-on-one coaching sessions  
Match to a tutor for help in course-specific content (for a reasonable fee) | Killam Library 3rd floor Coordinator Rm 3104 Study Coaches Rm 3103 | To make an appointment:  
- Visit main office (Killam Library main floor, Rm G28)  
- Call (902) 494-3077  
- e-mail Coordinator at: sfs@dal.ca or  
- Drop in to see us during posted office hours  
All information can be found on our website: [www.dal.ca/sfs](http://www.dal.ca/sfs) |
| **Writing Centre**             | Meet with a tutor to discuss writing assignments (lab report, research paper, thesis, poster)  
- Learn to integrate source material into your own work appropriately  
- Learn about disciplinary writing from a peer or staff member in your field | Killam Library Ground floor Learning Commons & Rm G25 | To make an appointment:  
- Visit the Writing Centre in the Killam Learning Commons (Rm G40) and book an appointment  
- Call (902) 494-1963  
- e-mail writingcentre@dal.ca  
- Book online through MyDal  
We are open six days a week  
See our website: writingcentre.dal.ca |

**Questions?**

Visit forums on Brightspace and send messages using the message tool.

Rajesh Rajaselvam  
[Rajesh.Rajaselvam@Dal.Ca](mailto:Rajesh.Rajaselvam@Dal.Ca)  
LSC 3082 (902.494.4251)