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

Lectures: Monday & Wednesday 13:05 – 14:25 hrs (LSC/C240)

Tutorials: 6 tutorials (120 min/tutorial)  
Monday 14:35 – 16:25 pm (LSC/208, 212, P4208 & McCain/1102, 1116)

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 05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Feb 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation (group presentation)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mar 09, 11, 16 &amp; 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiz 2</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>Mar 25</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>
<td></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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation categories:</th>
<th>MARKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The presentation reflected a thorough knowledge of ‘Nature Conservation’ introduction/background info etc.</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The presentation exhibited clarity, correctness and conciseness credible information/ free from unnecessary elaboration and superfluous detail</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The presentation was well organized. with a burning question/severity of crisis</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The topic was covered in an understandable fashion. voice, enthusiasm, eye contact, pace (flow), transition</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The presentation was very well timed length of talk</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation resources were incorporated and used effectively. original music video/ proper animation/ one point at a time, use of visual aids</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The group responded effectively to questions posed by the audience. handling of questions</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main points were effectively summarized at the end of the presentation. summary can be in the form of conclusion (5)</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall total: Out of 10 = (Total of the above 8 categories/ 8) * 2</td>
<td></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. Late submission (without valid reasons) is not 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 06 - Course Introduction, Humans: The dominant ecological force (T1 Chap 1)
Jan 08 - Why conservation is needed I: Biodiversity and extinction (T1 Chap 2, T2 Chap 22)

Week 2
Jan 13 - Why conservation is needed II: The value of valuing nature: Current issues (T1 Chap 2, T2 Chap 3 & 25)
Jan 15 - Protected areas: A cornerstone of conservation (T1 Chap 5 & 6, T2 Chap 23)

Week 3
Jan 20 - Saving a species/ Gorillas on the brink (Pre tutorial session)
Jan 22 - Parks and Protected Areas in Canada: Current issues

Week 4
Jan 27 - The guide: Movie on “Gorongosa restoration story” (Pre tutorial session)
Jan 29 - The performance and potential of protected areas: Discussion session

Week 5
Feb 03 - Choosing conservation actions (T1 Chap 9 & 11)

Feb 05 - Introduction to students’ oral presentation, Quiz 1 ...8 Marks

Week 6
Feb 10 - Reversing deforestation I (T1 Chap 13)
Feb 12 - Reversing deforestation II: Current issues (T1 Chap 13) & Midterm Review

Week 7: Study Break

Week 8
Feb 24 - Midterm Exam (13:05 – 14:25 hrs @ C240)...24 Marks
Feb 26 - Canada’s Parks, Oral presentation discussion (TAs)
Week 09
Mar 02 - Balancing agriculture and conservation (T1 Chap 14, T2 Chap 11)
Mar 04 - Managing fresh water for people and nature (T1 Chap 15)
Week 10
Mar 09 & 11 - Students’ Presentations ...... 10 Marks
Week 11
Mar 16 & 18 - Students’ Presentations ...... 10 Marks
Week 12
Mar 23 - Sustainable marine fisheries: Discussion session (T1 Chap15, T2 Chap 17 & 19)
Mar 25 - Pre tutorial session, Quiz 2 ..... 8 Marks
Week 13
Mar 30 - Making conservation a success story: Current issues (T1 Chap 19) & End-Term revision
Apr 01 - 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 20: Tutorial 1: Gorillas on the brink / Species specific success story (Report required)
Jan 27: Tutorial 2: “Gorongosa” : Restoration story (Report required)
Feb 10: Tutorial 3: Paper critique/TA Discussion, Final submission on or before Feb 17 (Report required)
Feb 24: Tutorial 4: Topic/Discussion on oral presentation (group activity)
Mar 02: Tutorial 4: Oral presentation/PPT preparation and submission (group activity)
Mar 16: Students’ presentations
Mar 30: Tutorial 5: Conservation poster (Report required/Hard-copy)

University Policies and Statements

This course is governed by the academic rules and regulations set forth in the University Calendar and by Senate

Academic Integrity
At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect (The Center for Academic Integrity, Duke University, 1999). As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity.
Information: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html

Accessibility
The Advising and Access Services Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for student accessibility and accommodation. The advising team works with students who request accommodation as a result of a disability, religious obligation, or any barrier related to any other characteristic protected under Human Rights legislation (Canada and Nova Scotia).
Information: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html

Student Code of Conduct
Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don’t follow this community expectation. When appropriate,
violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner—perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can’t be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution.


Diversity and Inclusion – Culture of Respect
Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. We stand for equality. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity. We are a respectful and inclusive community. We are committed to being a place where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our Strategic Direction prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness

Statement: http://www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.html

Recognition of Mi’kmaq Territory
Dalhousie University would like to acknowledge that the University is on Traditional Mi’kmaq Territory. The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel and support. Visit or e-mail the Indigenous Student Centre (1321 Edward St) (elders@dal.ca).

Information: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html

Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates)
https://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html

University Grading Practices
https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html

Missed or Late Academic Requirements due to Student Absence (policy)
https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/missed-or-late-academic-requirements-due-to-student-absence.html

Student Resources and Support

Advising

General Advising https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html

Science Program Advisors: https://www.dal.ca/faculty/science/current-students/academic-advising.html

Indigenous Student Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html

Black Students Advising Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html

International Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/international-centre/current-students.html

Academic supports

Library: https://libraries.dal.ca/

Writing Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html

Studying for Success: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html

Copyright Office: https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office.html


Other supports and services

Student Advocacy: [https://dsu.ca/dsas](https://dsu.ca/dsas)


Safety

Biosafety: [https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/biosafety.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/biosafety.html)

Chemical Safety: [https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/chemical-safety.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/chemical-safety.html)


Scent-Free Program: [https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html)

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