Course Description and Objectives

This is a course in conservation biology. It is an interesting and relevant course that includes a number of topics including basic ecology, biodiversity and extinction, island biogeography, and illegal wildlife trade. The course also has a section on environmental law and the management of public lands. This course includes a field trip to the Mt. SAC wildlife sanctuary and a weekend field trip to a local reserve. You will have the opportunity to learn some common plants and animals associated with the areas we visit in the field and learn the importance of reserves for the preservation of biodiversity. You will also learn the ecology of a number of ecosystems in this course including tropical rainforests, old growth forests of the Pacific northwest, and a savannah type habitat called the cerrado in Brazil. You will have an opportunity to visually experience biodiversity of these ecosystems and learn about the as a result of an exploding human population and a changing climate.

To succeed in this course you must get to class on time, attend all field trips, study often, do the assigned reading, and live a life that is conducive to learning. This includes getting enough sleep and getting some exercise.

What’s in This Syllabus

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Course details

Website: [http://instruction2.mtsac.edu/sschmidt/](http://instruction2.mtsac.edu/sschmidt/)

Required Texts:

1. Schmidt, Sherry: Lecture Notes for Conservation of Natural Resources  
   (Available at Day and Nite Copy in the shopping center on the corner of Temple and Grand)

2. Assigned Readings for Conservation of Natural Resources: Available at Day and Nite Copy

My Expectations

Make up exams and quizzes

I do not give make up exams or quizzes. I will allow you to take an exam or quiz early but I will not allow you to take it late. You may take a comprehensive final to replace a low exam score or missed exam. You may replace a low quiz score or a missed quiz by doing an extra credit activity. See my website for extra credit activities: http://instruction2.mtsac.edu/sschmidt/

Late assignments

I have been having an issue with students coming to class late and students turning in late work. I have found a need to develop a policy that is consistent and fair to all my students including those that get to class on time and those who turn in their work on time. A nonfunctioning printer is not an excuse. Work on your assignment early enough so if problems arise, you have time to deal with them. See the table below for my policy on assignments that are turned in after the beginning of the class the assignment is due.

| On Time: Turned in at the beginning of class | 100% - missed questions |
| Turned in 5 minutes after class starts | 80% - missed questions |
| Turned in the day due but after class ends | 70% - missed questions |
| Turned in next class meeting | 50% - missed questions |
| Turned in beyond the next class meeting | 0% - no credit given |

Respect in the Classroom

Leaving during class

It is disruptive to me and other students when an individual wanders in and out of the classroom. This is a classroom not a movie theater. If you have to leave class while it is in session leave permanently for that class period. I will not allow you to re-enter the room. Go to the restroom before you come to class. Make important phone calls ahead of time.

Coming to class late

To succeed in this course you must get to class on time. Walking in late is disruptive to me and other students. I know there are times when things happen that are beyond your control. However, if you are habitually late I will ask you to drop this class and take a class at a time that works better with your schedule. If you walk in late when I am giving a quiz you will not be allowed to take the quiz.

“One final paragraph of advice: do not burn yourselves out. Be as I am - a reluctant enthusiast… A part time crusader, a half hearted fanatic. Save the other half of yourselves and your lives for pleasure and adventure. It is not enough to fight for the land; it is even more important to enjoy it while it’s still there. So get out and hunt and fish and mess around with your friends, ramble out yonder and explore the forests, climb the mountains, bag the peaks, run the rivers, breath deep of that yet sweet lucid air, sit quietly for awhile and contemplate the precious stillness, the lovely mysterious, awesome space.”

Edward Abby
The use of cell phones during class is disruptive to me and the students that sit near you. Cell phone use in class shows a lack of respect to your peers. I may give a short one to two minute break in the middle of class. You may use your phone at that time. I expect your cell phones to be in your pocket, purse, or backpack at all other times. You are not allowed to have your cell phone during a test. You must put it in your backpack, purse, or on my front desk. If I see you with a cell phone on you during a test you will receive an F on that test.

Grading

Grades will be determined by a straight percentage of your total score.

- 3 Exams 100 points
- Quizzes 100 points (Drop Lowest) 100 points
- Sanctuary report 25 points 25 points
- Field trip report 50 points 50 points
- Worksheets 15 points 45 points
- Final Exam 100 points 100 points

Total Points = 620 points

Lecture Exams
Exams will consist of multiple choice fill-in, and short answer essay questions. Essay questions will be drawn from lecture material, assigned readings, and from questions on the worksheets.

Essay Questions
Most of the essay questions will come directly from the worksheets. If you can fill out the worksheets from memory (without looking at your notes) you will do very well on the exams.

Help and Resources

If you are feeling lost or overwhelmed...

Talk to me
See me during my office hours or make an appointment to see me if you cannot come to my office hours.

Use my website
I have links to videos, practice quizzes, worksheets, and the answers to some of the problems on the worksheets. I also have links to other useful websites. Past students have found my website very helpful and I hope you utilize the resources I have provided for you.

Visit the Biology Study Room
The biology study room is in building 61 room 3318. Check my website for the hours it is open. The person at the front desk is either a biology student or professor. Most of the time he/she would be willing to answer a few quick questions for you. The resource room would also be a great place to meet if you decide to start or join a study group.

Use the Natural Science Computer Lab
The computer lab is in building 11 room 2115. You can use it to print assignments. You must have your student ID and your own flash drive if you want to use the computers and printer. Check my website for the hours it is open.

Accommodations
If you feel that you have a disability that may prevent you from succeeding in this class please contact the DSP&S office. The office is located in the Student Services Building (9B).

http://www.mtsac.edu/dsp/s/

Cell Phones

No make up exams or quizzes are given
Some Important Dates and Holidays

- February 23 - School Starts
- March 6 - Last day to drop without a “W”
- March 30 - Holiday
- May 8 - Last day to drop
- May 16 - Coastal Reserve Trip
- May 25 - Holiday

Policy on Academic Integrity

According to the Mt. SAC policy on academic integrity an instructor who determines that a student has cheated may give the student a failing grade for the assignment, for the course, or drop the student from the course. Since the student has failed to abide by the standards of academic honesty, the instructor has a right to give an F for the assignment or the course even though the student may have successfully and, presumably, honestly passed the remaining portion of the assignment or course. If the instructor issues a failing grade for the course or drops the student, the actions shall be reported to the Dean, Student Services, and Director, Student Life. An instructor may also recommend that appropriate action be taken under provisions of the Administrative Regulations and Procedures on Student Discipline.

Some examples of cheating include, but are not limited to:

- Plagiarism, which is the use of materials authored by another person or obtained from a commercial source or the use of passages without proper acknowledgment. This includes using photographs from the internet without giving the photographer credit.
- Having or using unauthorized materials during any exam or quiz.
- Notes concealed in or written on clothing, hats, or skin (as examples).
- Looking at another student’s work during any exam or quiz.
- Removing an exam or quiz from the classroom without the professor’s approval.
- Taking photos of exams, quizzes, completed ScanTrons®, or exam keys.
- Turning in work that was generated by other individuals or by the same individual but in a prior semester, including but not limited to: lab report data, lab report or homework questions, homework assignments, and extra credit assignments.
- Allowing another student to look at your exam or quiz, or allowing another student to copy your homework, lab reports, or other assignments. (If that work is duplicated you may also receive the same penalties listed above for violation of the Biology Department Policy on Cheating, and the college policy on cheating and academic dishonesty.)
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<th>Week</th>
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2. Ecosystem Functions and Services                                                               |
4. Biodiversity Conservation: Challenges Beyond 2010  
5. On the Termination of Species                                                                  |
7. Determining Minimum Habitat Areas and Habitat Corridors for Cougars                         |
| 4    | 17 Mar     | Island Biogeography: Equilibrium Model for Prediction of Species on Islands Video/DVD: Empty Oceans Empty Nets Trip to Wildlife Sanctuary-Part II | 8. The Need for Predator Management in the Conservation of Some Vulnerable Species  
11. Biosphere Reserves: Myth and Reality  
12. A New Era for Biosphere Reserves                                                                  |
| 6    | 31 Mar     | Designing Nature Reserves; Biosphere Reserves Video/DVD: The Loneliest Animals Wildlife Sanctuary Write-up Due | 13. Old Growth Forests  
14. New Thinking on Old Growth                                                                      |
| 7    | 7 Apr      | Old Growth Forests of the Pacific Northwest Video/DVD: Climbing Redwood Giants | 15. Clear-Cutting the Tropical Rainforest in a Bold Attempt to Salvage It  
16. Global Commodities Boom Fuels New Assault on the Amazon  
17. Land Food and Biodiversity                                                                       |
| 8    | 14 Apr     | Tropical Rainforests Video/DVD: Banking on Disaster - Part I          | 18. The Cerrado: Brazil’s Other Biodiverse Region Loses Ground  
19. Biodiversity Hotspots for Conservation Priorities  
20. Conserving Biodiversity Coldspots                                                                   |
| 9    | 21 Apr     | Biodiversity Hotspots: Madagascar and Brazil Video/DVD: Banking on Disaster - Part II The Border Wall | 21. Infectious Disease and Endangered Species Management  
22. Endangered Species Management: The U.S. Experience  
23. The Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan                         |
| 10   | 28 Apr     | Test II Video/DVD: Hotspots                                         | 24. CITES at 30 or 40  
25. In Tibet, Change Comes to the Once-Pristine Roof of the World  
26. Laos Emerges as Key Source in Illicit Wildlife Trade  
27. The Dirty War Against Africa’s Remaining Rhinos                                                   |
29. Taking it to the Top  
30. Pronghorn in Peril                                                                            |
| 12   | 12 May     | No in class meeting due to field trip                                 | 24-30. Two quizzes will cover articles  
24. National Parks and Other Public Lands Quiz covers articles 28-33 Video/DVD: National Parks - Disc 6  
25. In Tibet, Change Comes to the Once-Pristine Roof of the World  
26. Laos Emerges as Key Source in Illicit Wildlife Trade  
27. The Dirty War Against Africa’s Remaining Rhinos                                                   |
32. The Gray Ranch  
33. Ranchers form a “Radical Center” to Protect Wide Open Spaces                                      |
| 14   | 26 May     | National Parks and Other Public Lands Quiz covers articles 28-33 Video/DVD: National Parks - Disc 6 | 34. A National Treasure  
35. Should Cows Chew Cheatgrass on Common Lands  
36. Ecological Effects of Grazing: A Six Point Critique                                               |
38. Running Dry                                                                                   |
| 16   | 9 June     | Final Exam (Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.)                                     |                                                                                               |