

Peru State College  
**BIOLOGY 350 CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT**  
Syllabus – Spring – 2010

**Instructor: Dr. Michael Barger**  
**Office Hours: MW (8-9); TR (10-1).**  
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**Course Meets: MW, 800-915**

**Required Textbook: Fundamentals of Conservation Biology**

**Required Software: None.**

### **Course Description & Objectives**

This course examines the role of density dependent and density independent population limiting factors on the persistence and growth of wildlife populations. Sources and impacting factors on metapopulations, species persistence, and biodiversity are examined from an ecological and wildlife management perspective.

Prerequisites: Biol 101 and 102.

Upon completion of this course you should be able to: 1) Understand and utilize the vocabulary of the discipline; 2) Compare and contrast conservation and management decisions, actions, and points-of-view; 3) Access and integrate the primary literature on conservation and management; and, 4) Discuss the role of policy, politics, and history in conservation and management.

At the beginning of the course, we will discuss how these objectives fit into the College's and School's mission and goals.

### **Expectations & Instructional Approach**

Classes will include: Each week, course time will be used for lecture and discussion of the above topics. You might find it helpful to have read the relevant material out of your textbook prior to lecture on that topic. All assigned readings are required, and the information from them is available for the subsequent exam.

### **Assessment and Grading**

Exams: Exams will be based on lectures and assigned readings from the textbook. We will discuss their format as the first exam approaches. I give no make-up tests. A missed test is graded as zero if unexcused and is prorated if excused. A missed test is excused if and only if I have given written consent PRIOR to the test. The above applies equally to persons involved in conflicting college-sanctioned events; athletes

and others are personally responsible for informing me of any conflicts with tests and laboratories as soon as those conflicts are known. I will assume no official PSC sanctioned conflicts with the test schedule below after the second week of lecture.

Literature reviews: Each literature review should be based on a detailed and analytical reading of a current research article (no more than 10 years old) relevant to conservation and management (review articles and articles from popular journals are not acceptable). Make sure to photocopy or print the article because a photocopy must be turned in with the review. Your goal with each literature review is to summarize and criticize the article. Your review should be divided up into the following sections:

#### Background of Study

- This should include brief descriptions of the organisms, habitats, ecosystems, and/or concepts being studied in the paper.
- For example, if the study was about the reproductive biology of lemmings, it would be worthwhile to briefly summarize the basics of lemming reproduction.

#### Summary of Study Approach

- What questions did they ask; what hypotheses did they test?
- Summarize the general methods used.
- How did they test the hypotheses or answer the questions?

#### Summary of Study Findings

- What did they find and what did they say it meant?

#### Significance of Study Findings

- What do the results of this study mean for conservation and/or management practices or policy?
- Do the results support an existing idea or introduce new ideas; is a paradigm challenged or overthrown?
- Do the data really back up what they have to say?

Each literature review should be no more than 3 pages, single-spaced, 12-point type. Check the schedule above for due dates.

You now have access to BioOne and JSTOR, two full-text resources for the natural sciences. Both of these databases include numerous journals; BioOne includes current contents and recent issues; JSTOR includes archived (generally 5 years old) journals. BioOne will be the most important resource because of the restriction on the age of the articles you choose. We retain subscriptions to several paper journals as well.

I will demonstrate the use of BioOne and JSTOR in class.

Plagiarism from the journal article in your assignment will result in a zero for that assignment.

#### Grading Scale

Your final grade will be based on three exams (3@100pts each); Literature reviews (4@25pts each); Total of 400 pts: A (90-100%), B+ (85-89%), B (80-84%), C+ (75-

79%), C (70-74%), D+ (65-69%), D (60-64%), F (<60%). I reserve the right to modify the final grade distribution.

### College's Incomplete Coursework Policy

To designate a student's work in a course as incomplete at the end of a term, the instructor records the incomplete grade (I). Students may receive this grade only when serious illness, hardship, death in the immediate family, or military service during the semester in which they are registered prevents them from completing course requirements. In addition, to receive an incomplete, a student must have completed substantially all of the course's major requirements.

Unless extenuating circumstances dictate otherwise, students must initiate requests for an incomplete by filling out an Incomplete Grade Completion Contract, which requires the signature of the student, instructor, and Dean. The Incomplete Grade Completion contract cites the reason(s) for the incomplete and details the specific obligations the student must meet to change the incomplete to a letter grade. The date by which the student agrees to complete required work must appear in the contract. The Dean, the instructor, and the student receive signed copies of the Incomplete Grade Completion Contract.

Even if the student does not attend Peru State College, all incomplete course work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester. Unless the appropriate Dean approves an extension and if the student does not fulfill contract obligations in the allotted time, the incomplete grade automatically becomes an F.

### College's Academic Integrity Policy

The College expects all students to conduct themselves in a manner that supports an honest assessment of student learning outcomes and the assignment of grades that appropriately reflect student performance. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to understand and comply with instructions regarding the completion of assignments, exams, and other academic activities. At a minimum, students should assume that at each assessment opportunity they are expected to do their own original academic work and/or clearly acknowledge in an appropriate fashion the intellectual work of others, when such contributions are allowed. Students helping others to circumvent honest assessments of learning outcomes, or who fail to report instances of academic dishonesty, are also subject to the sanctions defined in this policy.

Instances of academic dishonesty may be discovered in a variety of ways. Faculty members who assign written work ordinarily check citations for accuracy, run data base and online checks, and/or may simply recognize familiar passages that are not cited. They may observe students in the act of cheating or may become aware of instances of cheating from the statements of others. All

persons who observe or otherwise know about instances of cheating are expected to report such instances to the proper instructor or Dean.

In order to promote academic integrity, the College subscribes to an electronic service to review papers for the appropriate citations and originality. Key elements of submitted papers are stored electronically in a limited access database and thus become a permanent part of the material to which future submissions are compared. Submission of an application and continued enrollment signifies your permission for this use of your written work.

NSCS Board of Trustees Policy 4220 states that each College “. . . will establish a distance learning assessment policy that will include, at a minimum, a substantial culminating experience that is proctored.” Peru State College’s policy is that each course that is offered entirely online will feature a proctored final exam that substantially measures the extent the course’s stated learning objectives are achieved. Online course syllabi will clearly state that, regardless of grades earned previously, the proctored final exam must be passed in order to receive credit for the course. Courses which feature graded site-based activities (e.g., teaching demonstrations) and/or video-taped presentations that occur near the end of the term, and that are designed to substantially assess the achievement of learning objectives, can be considered in compliance with this policy. Project-based capstone and graduate courses utilizing real-time discussions held by web-cam, phone or in person with the faculty member as part of the assessment process can also be considered in compliance with this policy.

Should an occurrence of academic misconduct occur, the faculty member may assign a failing grade for the assignment or a failing grade for the course. Each incident of academic misconduct should be reported to the Dean and the Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA). The VPAA may suspend students for two semesters found to be responsible for multiple instances of academic dishonesty. The reason for the suspension will be noted on the student’s transcript.

A faculty member need present only basic evidence of academic dishonesty. There is no requirement for proof of intent. Students are responsible for understanding these tenets of academic honesty and integrity. Students may appeal penalties for academic dishonesty using the process established for grades appeals.

### **Title IX Compliance Notice**

Peru State College is an equal opportunity institution. PSC does not discriminate against any student, employee or applicant on the basis of race, color, national

origin, sex, disability, religion, or age in employment and education opportunities, including but not limited to admission decisions. The College has designated an individual to coordinate the College's nondiscrimination efforts to comply with regulations implementing Title VI, VII, IX, and Section 504. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies and practices may be directed to Eulanda Cade, Director of Human Resources, Title VI, VII, IX Compliance Coordinator, Peru State College, PO Box 10, Peru, NE 68421-0010, (402) 872-2230.

Students requesting reasonable accommodation and tutoring services should contact the Center for Achievement and Transition Services (CATS).

### Tentative Course Schedule

| Week of: | Topic (Textbook chapters)                                 | Assignment Due   |
|----------|---|--|
| Jan. 11  | Introduction (1); Lit. Reviews; Use of databases.         | None.  |
| Jan. 18  | History (1).  | None.  |
| Jan. 25  | Biodiversity (2-5).                                       | 1 <sup>st</sup> literature review (26 <sup>th</sup> )  |
| Feb. 1   | Biodiversity (2-5).                                       | None   |
| Feb. 8   | Biodiversity; <b>EXAM I (11<sup>th</sup>)</b> .           | None.  |
| Feb. 15  | Extinction (6-7).   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> literature review (16 <sup>th</sup> ). |
| Feb. 22  | Extinction; Overexploitation (6-7, 9).                    | None.  |
| March 1  | Overexploitation (9).                                     | None.  |
| March 8  | <b>Midterm Break</b>                                      | <b>Midterm Break</b>                                   |
| March 15 | Introductions (10).                                       | 3 <sup>rd</sup> literature review (16 <sup>th</sup> ). |
| March 22 | Ecosystem degradation; <b>EXAM II (25<sup>th</sup>)</b> . | None.  |
| March 29 | Ecosystem degradation (8).                                | None.  |
| April 5  | Managing Ecosystems (11-13).                              | 4 <sup>th</sup> literature review (6 <sup>th</sup> ).  |
| April 12 | Managing Ecosystems (11-13).                              | None.  |
| April 19 | Managing Ecosystems (11-13).                              | None.  |
| April 26 | Yellowstone as case study.                                | None.  |
| May 3    | <b>FINAL EXAM (8-10am, May 4)</b> .                       | None.  |