

**Syllabus**

**SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT  
NAS 331: Biodiversity and Conservation**

5 Credits

Effective: Summer 2020/2021

*Access to the Internet is required.  
All written assignments must be in Microsoft-Word-compatible formats.  
See the library's APA Style Guide tutorial for a list of resources that can help you use APA style.*

## **FACULTY**

Faculty Name: FACULTY NAME

Contact Information: CONTACT INFORMATION

[INSTRUCTOR MAY INSERT PERSONAL MESSAGE IF DESIRED]

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Biodiversity and Conservation incorporates an interdisciplinary approach to the study of biodiversity and conservation, with a foundation in ecological theory and principles as a basis for the conservation and management of natural, production, and disturbed systems. Students explore biodiversity as an ordered progression in biological complexity, from genes to ecosystems, and the mechanisms behind the development of species and ecosystems. The key processes that threaten biodiversity conservation are examined. The impact of humans on the earth's biodiversity and current issues in the conservation of biodiversity are examined, in both global and regional settings. The scientific basis of species and habitat conservation and current practices and problems are also explored.

## **COURSE RESOURCES**

Required and recommended resources to complete coursework and assignments are available from the Blackboard course.

## **CITYU LEARNING GOALS**

This course supports the following City University learning goals:

- Professional Competency and Professional Identity
- Strong Communication and Interpersonal Skills, and Lifelong Learning

## **COURSE OUTCOMES**

In this course, learners:

- Integrate the theoretical basis of conservation management into current practices and problems.
- Compare and contrast methods for the conservation of biodiversity.
- Integrate the concept of biodiversity into understanding of ecological systems and processes.
- Evaluate the various ways that biodiversity can be measured.
- Assess and contrast the factors and threatening processes responsible for the extinction of organisms.
- Evaluate current and potential conservation problems in a selected region.

## CORE CONCEPTS, KNOWLEDGE, AND SKILLS

- Biodiversity challenges & solutions
- Conservation theories, practices & impacts
- Human vs. nature impacts
- Exploitation, overuse, and habitat degradation
- Policies, laws, and international agreements
- Regenerative systems theories & practices
- Scientific, governmental policy and society interface
- Species invasion, morphology, extinction & new adaptations

## OVERVIEW OF COURSE GRADING

The grades earned for the course will be derived using City University of Seattle's decimal grading system, based on the following:

<i>Overview of Required Assignments</i>	<i>% of Final Grade</i>
Environmental Report	15%
Integration Project	15%
Comprehensive Final Assessment	50%
Instructor-determined Assignments	20%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

## SPECIFICS OF COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

The instructor will provide grading rubrics that will provide more detail as to how this assignment will be graded.

### Environmental Report

Each student will research, analyze, and report on a major environmental event or topic, either chosen by the instructor, or suggested by the student and approved by the instructor. The purpose of the assignment is to connect concepts from the course and apply them to the environmental topic. The assignment must be submitted to the instructor and will be graded based on an insightful thesis statement, writing mechanics, references selected, and a thorough evaluation. The assignment must be written in APA format with proper grammar, and syntax. The body of the report should be 5-7 pages.

Components % of Grade

Accuracy 75%

Completeness 25%

TOTAL 100%

<i>Components</i>	<i>% of Grade</i>
Writing Mechanics	10%
References	10%
Purpose/Thesis Statement	40%
Analysis	40%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Integration Project**

#### Integration Project

Either individually, or in small groups of 3 to 4, students will research, analyze, and report on a current world environmental event or topic which will be assigned by the instructor, or suggested by the student(s) and approved by the instructor. For individual Projects, each paper will be graded at face value. As explained in the syllabus for a group Project, 75% of each student's grade for the Project will be based on the paper itself, and 25% will be derived from the collective evaluation of that student's participation and contribution to the group effort, as judged by all members of that group, including the student himself or herself.

#### Components % of Grade

Purpose/Thesis statement 15%  
 Content 45%  
 Writing Mechanics 15%  
 References 25%

TOTAL 100%

<i>Components</i>	<i>% of Grade</i>
Writing Mechanics	15%
Purpose/Thesis Statement	25%
Content	25%
References	10%
Analysis	25%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Comprehensive Final Essay**

#### Comprehensive Final Essay

The comprehensive final essay will test students' knowledge of topics throughout the course including biodiversity, conservation, the history of human activity and its impact on the world's biodiversity, pollution, global warming, and environmental legislation. The essay will be open book, take home format. The instructor will determine the deadline of submission and the topic of the final essay.

#### Components % of Grade

Requirements 40%  
 Analysis 40%  
 Organization 20%

TOTAL 100%

<i>Components</i>	<i>% of Grade</i>
Analysis	30%
Writing Mechanics	10%
Key Topic Support	60%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Instructor-determined Assignments**

<i>Components</i>	<i>% of Grade</i>
Analysis	30%
Writing Mechanics	15%
Purpose/Thesis Statement	30%
Content	25%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### **Late Assignments**

Late Assignments will be marked down by 2 points. I encourage students to complete sections as laid out in blackboard.

### **Participation**

**Students are expected to participate in the course and engage with the instructor and their peers. Failure to participate and/or respect for the instructor and peers will result in a review by the instructor.**

### **Professional Writing**

Assignments require error-free writing that uses standard English conventions and logical flow of organization to address topics clearly, completely, and concisely. CityU requires the use of APA style.

## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**You are responsible for understanding and adhering to all of City University of Seattle's academic policies. The most current versions of these policies can be found in the [University Catalog](#) that is linked from the CityU Web site.**

### **Title IX Statement**

City University of Seattle and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual misconduct (e.g. sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, that faculty member must notify CityU's Title IX coordinator and share the basic fact of your experience. The Title IX coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

To view CityU'S sexual misconduct policy and for resources, please visit the [Campus Safety and Title IX Page](#) in the my.cityu.edu portal.

### **Scholastic Honesty**

Scholastic honesty in students requires the pursuit of scholarly activity that is free from fraud, deception and unauthorized collaboration with other individuals. You are responsible for understanding CityU's policy on scholastic honesty and adhering to its standards in meeting all course requirements. A complete copy of this policy can be found in the [University Catalog](#) in the section titled *Scholastic Honesty* under *Student Rights & Responsibilities*.

### **Attendance**

Students taking courses in any format at the University are expected to be diligent in their studies and to attend class regularly.

Regular class attendance is important in achieving learning outcomes in the course and may be a valid consideration in determining the final grade. For classes where a physical presence is required, a student has attended if s/he is present at any time during the class session. For online classes, a student has attended if s/he has posted or submitted an assignment. A complete copy of this policy can be found in the [University Catalog](#) in the section titled *Attendance Policy for Mixed Mode, Online and Correspondence Courses*.

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **Disability Services Accommodations Statement**

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Please contact Disability Support Services at [disability@cityu.edu](mailto:disability@cityu.edu) or 206.239.4752 or visit the [Disability](#)

[Support Services](#) page in the my.cityu.edu portal. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors.

### **Library Services**

CityU librarians are available to help you find the resources and information you need to succeed in this course. Contact a CityU librarian through the [Ask a Librarian](#) service, or access [library resources and services online](#), 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

### **Smarthinking**

As a CityU student, you have access to 10 free hours of online tutoring offered through Smarthinking, including writing support, from certified tutors 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Contact CityU's Student Support Center at [help@cityu.edu](mailto:help@cityu.edu) to request your user name and password.