

Conservation Biology
Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
EEB215 H1S – Spring 2015

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Instructor: Becky Raboy, Ph.D.
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Room 508, Ramsay Wright
Ph: 416-978-6665
Email: becky.raboy@utoronto.ca
Office Hours: by appointment

Course TA: Julio Rivera
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology & Royal Ontario Museum
LOCATION TBA
Email: EEB214TA@gmail.com
Office Hours: by appointment

Location: RW 110

Time: Tuesdays 11 am - 12 pm
Thursdays 11 am - 1 pm

Course organization and overview: This course is both an introduction to the fundamentals of conservation biology and a broad survey of its practical application towards the conservation of threatened biodiversity and ecosystems. The course presents the major issues that define the discipline such as understanding what is biodiversity, how to value biodiversity, threats to biodiversity, conservation at the population, species and ecosystem levels, recovery and management, protected areas, regional to international effort, diverse stakeholder interest, funding and more. This course meets three hours a week and includes lectures, in depth presentation of select case-studies, research presentations and informational sessions pertaining to the course's writing assignments. Content for lecture will come from the course text book, occasional supplementary reading and your professor's wider understanding of the discipline. Readings should be done in advance of lecture to facilitate discussion that will be interspersed throughout lecture. For case studies, multi-media information in the form of government and NGO reports, scientific articles, newspaper/popular articles, websites, video clips, etc. will be reviewed and discussed. A major component of the course includes the construction of two web-articles and corresponding discussion comments from classmates over the course of the semester. The first writing piece is on an endangered species of choice and the second on a threatened ecosystem of choice. All articles will be posted to our course website. At the end of the term there will be a take-home assessment based on these articles. In addition, there will be one midterm test and a final exam based on lecture, textbook, research presentations and case study content. The final will be cumulative. See below for more details on writing assignments and exams. **Exclusion: BIO120H1/BIO150Y1.**

Course site on the Portal: We will use the U of T Portal for course communications and management. Please check this site regularly for updates and important course information. The course site is on the U of T Portal (portal.utoronto.ca) and contains a copy of this course syllabus, announcements, lecture slides, supplementary reading material and links. Only students who are enrolled in EEB215H1S on ROSI have access to this site (within 24-48 hours of enrolling). To access the EEB215 website, go to the U of T Portal login page at <http://portal.utoronto.ca> and log in using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in, look for the My Courses module, where you'll find the link to the EEB215 course.

Course Readings: All readings for the course are **required**. The course textbook is "A Primer for Conservation Biology" (5th Edition) by Richard B. Primack. Additional readings (for some case studies and lectures) will be posted on the Portal or by link from our course listing in the U of T library catalogue. Some course "readings" will be in the form of reviewing entire websites.

Email Policy: You may email me (Professor Raboy) with course queries and I will try to respond within 48 hours (excluding weekends). Please email your TA, Julio Rivera, if your question is related to the web-article assignments. Start the email subject line with "EEB 215-" followed by a short description of your enquiry (e.g., "EEB215- question about exam format"). Please send mail from your UTOR account. Depending on the nature of the question, we may refer you to come in to office hours for further clarification. Questions about comprehension of course/lecture content are easiest to discuss in person. Email should NOT be seen as an alternative to meeting with the instructor during office hours. Nor should email be used as a mechanism to receive private tutorials (especially prior to tests) or to explain material that was covered in lectures you missed.

Evaluation:

Activity	Due Date	Percent
Article 1 (Threatened species)	3 Feb	15% (12% Article, 3% Comments)
Article 2 (Threatened ecosystems)	17 Mar	15% (12% Article, 3% Comments)
Midterm	12 Feb	20%
Take-home assessment	31 Mar	10%
Final	-EXAM PERIOD-	40%

Popular-writing ("web-article") assignments

There will be two popular-writing assignments ("web-articles") due; posted to our class website (and only visible to our class). Web-articles should contain dynamic content including text, photos, possibly other graphics/visuals and supporting links. In preparation for submission of each article we will hold one introductory tutorial explaining the assignment and a follow-up workshop session. Come to the workshops prepared with 1-2 outstanding questions (procedural or content based), and a mock-up of your article. Students are also required to give constructive comments on these articles for a grade (due one week after article submission deadline). In addition, there will be one take-home assessment to be written between the second-to-last and last week of class related to the general exercise, requiring a review of other classmates posted articles in order to synthesize content. More details on these assignments will be provided later in the course.

Exams

There will be a midterm and a final. The dates and locations of tests are provided in the Topics and Timetable at the end of the syllabus. Tests will contain multiple-choice, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank questions. The final examination will take place during the scheduled Faculty of Arts & Sciences examination period. The final examination schedule is posted by Faculty of Arts & Sciences later in the term.

Missing a Test, etc.: If you miss a test, a U of T medical certificate or a letter from your college registrar is required in order to request special consideration or to write a make-up test. You must contact me (Professor Raboy) within two days of missing a test. Medical certificates must confirm your inability to attend a test and the dates of your illness, and must show that the physician was consulted at the time of the illness. Students who miss the final examination must petition to the Faculty of Arts & Sciences.

Late Policy: All assignments are to be submitted on-line at 10 am the day they are due (please note this is an **hour before** class starts). Assignments received later than when they are due will be penalized 10% per day that they are late, including weekends (determined by electronic time-stamp by Turnitin.com or Portal). Assignments turned in on the day they are due, but after the stated deadline will be penalized by 5%. Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc. will be entertained **ONLY** when supported by **written documentation** (e.g., a completed U of T Medical Certificate, U of T Health Service Form, College Registrars letter).

Accessibility Needs: The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please feel free to contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible at (416) 978-8060 or www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/.

Writing: Students who need help with writing are referred to the writing resources on campus, starting with the Writing at U of T website: www.writing.utoronto.ca/. This site includes a page of frequently asked questions, a set of helpful advice pages on academic writing of various types, information about writing centres and writing courses, and the latest news about writing support programs.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is one of the cornerstones of the University of Toronto. It is critically important both to maintain our community which honours the values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness and responsibility and to protect you, the students within this community, and the value of the degree towards which you are all working so diligently.

According to Section B of the University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (www.utoronto.ca/govcncl/pap/policies/behaveac.html) which all students are expected to know and respect, it is an offence for a student:

- To use someone else's ideas or words in your own work without acknowledging that those ideas/words are not your own with a citation and/or quotation marks, i.e., to commit plagiarism.
- To include false, misleading or concocted citations in your work.
- To obtain unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

- To provide unauthorized assistance to another student.
- To submit your own work for credit where it has been previously obtained in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- To falsify or alter any documentation required by the University. This includes, but is not limited to, doctor's notes.
- To use or possess an unauthorized aid in any test or exam.

There are other offences covered under the Code, but these are the most common. Please respect these rules and the values which they protect. *(Above text on academic integrity provided July 2007 by Office of Student Academic Integrity, Arts and Science)*

Also see "How Not to Plagiarize", a useful guide on referencing and citations, prepared by Margaret Procter, U of T Coordinator, Writing Support (www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize).

Turnitin.com: You will be submitting all written work through turnitin.com. The act of submitting to Turnitin.com is voluntary, if you disagree to do so, please see the instructor **in advance** to make alternative plans for submission. Supplementary proof of originality in writing may be required, such as outlines and paper drafts. "Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site".

Audio Recording of Lectures: Lecture presentations are the intellectual property of the instructor; you must obtain permission to record lectures. Such audio recordings are for personal use only by students enrolled in EEB255H1S. The distribution, transmission, reproduction, or re-posting of the EEB255H1S lecture materials including audio recordings, in part or whole, is strictly prohibited without the written permission of the instructor. Sharing of recordings among classmates is also prohibited unless specific arrangements are made with the instructor ahead of time. Special consideration is granted to students with disabilities and proper arrangements can be made. If you bring a personal recording device to the front of the room, you do so at your own risk and you assume responsibility if it is lost or stolen. Students are advised not to treat recordings as a substitute for attending lectures and taking notes. Permission to record lectures may be taken away if such points are disregarded.

Topics and Timetable: The table below outlines lecture topics by date, required textbook readings and exam dates. Additional readings will be assigned for case studies and occasional lectures. All readings are to be done in advance of the specified lecture to ensure full understanding and ability to discuss material. The schedule is subject to change. Revisions will be posted to the Portal as necessary.

Class # /code	Date		Topic	Chapters	Notable Events and Due Dates
L1	Jan 6	Tu	Introduction	1	
L2	Jan 8	Th	Roots of conservation biology	1	
L3	Jan 8	Th	What is biodiversity	2	
L4	Jan 13	Tu	Fundamentals of ecology	-	
L5	Jan 15	Th	Fundamentals of evolution and genetics	-	
INF1	Jan 15	Th	<i>Intro to Web-Article 1</i>	-	
RP1	Jan 20	Tu	<i>*Julio Rivera's Research*</i>		
L6	Jan 22	Th	Where is biodiversity found	2	
INF2	Jan 22	Th	<i>Web-Article 1 Open Workshop</i>	-	
L7	Jan 27	Tu	Valuing biodiversity	3	
L8	Jan 29	Th	Threats 1	4	
L9	Jan 29	Th	Threats 2	4	
L10	Feb 3	Tu	Extinction and vulnerability to extinction	5	Web-Article 1 Due
L11	Feb 5	Th	Small populations	5	
L12	Feb 5	Th	Applied population biology	6	
CS1	Feb 10	Tu	<i>Case study: Saiga Antelope</i>		Comments due
-	Feb 12	Th	Midterm exam (2 hours, in class)		
OFF	Feb 17	Tu	READING WEEK		
OFF	Feb 19	Th	READING WEEK		
L13	Feb 24	Tu	Ex-situ conservation strategies	6	
L14	Feb 26	Th	Establishing new populations	6	
INF3	Feb 26	Th	<i>Intro to Web-Article 2</i>	-	
L15	Mar 3	Tu	Protected areas	7	
L16	Mar 5	Th	Designing networks of protected areas	7	
INF4	Mar 5	Th	<i>Web-Article 2 Open Workshop</i>	-	
L17	Mar 10	Tu	Managing protected areas	7	
L18	Mar 12	Th	Conservation outside of protected areas	8	
CS2	Mar 12	Th	<i>Case study: Cheetahs</i>		
L19	Mar 17	Tu	Restoration ecology	8	Web-Article 2 Due
L20	Mar 19	Th	Local and national efforts	9	
L21	Mar 19	Th	International approach	9	
CS3	Mar 24	Tu	<i>Case study: Massasauga Rattlesnake</i>		Comments due
L22	Mar 26	Th	Funding for conservation biology	9	
RP2	Mar 26	Th	<i>*Dr. Raboy's Research*</i>		Take-home assessment opens
L24	Mar 31	Tu	The future/Open Q&A	-	Take-home assessment closes
-	Apr 2	Th	Film, The Lorax (optional)	-	Extra-credit worksheet
FINAL	Exam Period		Final (3 hours in exam room. Location to posted at a later date by FAS)		Final

L=Lecture, RP=Research Presentation, INF=Informational Session, CS=Case Study