

## BIO3442f: Conservation Biology - Course Outline

### 1. Course Information

#### Lecture hours and location

Wednesdays and Fridays, 11:30-12:30pm, NCB 114

#### Tutorial hours and location

Section 002, TUES 2:30-5:30, SSC3026

Section 003, TUES 2:30-5:30, UCC58

Section 004, TUES 2:30-5:30, UCC60

Section 005, TUES 2:30-5:30, NCB293

#### Mandatory Tutorials

Assignments involve group work. Consequently, attendance at tutorials is considered mandatory. Students must sign in at the beginning of each tutorial to ensure that you touch base with your group members. You and your group members can then decide how long you wish to remain in tutorial. It might be for 10 min up to 3 hours.

**List of Prerequisites**, Biology 2483a. Priority given to all biology modules and scholars electives

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

### 2. Instructor & TA Information

Instructor	Email	Office	Phone	Office Hours
Dr. Liana Zanette	<a href="mailto:lzanette@uwo.ca">lzanette@uwo.ca</a>	Collip 207	519-661-2111 x88317	By appointment only

Tas	Email	Section	Tutorial Location	Office Hours
Thomas Galfano	<a href="mailto:tgalfano@uwo.ca">tgalfano@uwo.ca</a>	002	SSC3026	In tutorial only
Lauren Witterick	<a href="mailto:lwitteri@uwo.ca">lwitteri@uwo.ca</a>	003	UCC-58	In tutorial only
Ala Abdel Rahman	<a href="mailto:aabdel@uwo.ca">aabdel@uwo.ca</a>	004	UCC60	In tutorial only
Holly Deighton	<a href="mailto:hdeight@uwo.ca">hdeight@uwo.ca</a>	005	NCB293	In tutorial only

Students must use their Western ([@uwo.ca](mailto:)) email addresses when contacting their Instructor and TAs.

### 3. Course Syllabus, Schedule, Delivery Mode

## Goals of the course

This course introduces fundamental concepts and issues in conservation biology. We explore the three prongs of conservation including: (1) the science involved in conserving biodiversity; (2) the political systems that directly affect conservation; (3) how to access the political system to maximize the probability of implementing conservation programs. This course explores the fundamental tenants of conservation biology and will give you some of the critical skills you need to DO conservation biology.

## Learning outcomes

- 1) Recognize and articulate the key aspects of biodiversity, the causes of biodiversity loss, and the role of conservation biology in preserving biodiversity.
- 2) Recognize the science involved in conservation, in addition to the laws, policies, and regulations at all levels of government relevant to conservation.
- 3) Engage in the science of conservation in addition to the political process by creating and implementing conservation projects while demonstrating an ability to collaborate with others.
- 4) Synthesize complex information and articulate it both verbally and in writing.

Course materials

## Tentative Topics and Schedule

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (see Lecture and Lab Pages for detailed and the most up to date information)		
WEEK	LECTURE TOPIC	TUTORIAL
0	Course Overview	No Tutorial
1	L0: Conservation Biology Defined	Tuesday, Sep 13 - Midterm Project, week 1
2	L1: Biodiversity	Tuesday, Sep 20 - Midterm Project, week 2
3	L1: Biodiversity	Tuesday, Sep 27 - Midterm Project, week 3; group participation form
4	L2: Laws	Tuesday, Oct 4 - Midterm Project, week 4
5	L2: Laws	Tuesday, Oct 11 - <b>Midterm in tutorial test</b> . Followed by Midterm Project, week 5
6	L3: Politics, Economics & the Media	Tuesday, Oct 18 - Midterm Project, week 6, <b>ORALS</b>
7	L4: Basic Steps to Diagnosis	Tuesday, Oct 25 - Midterm Project, week 7, <b>WRITTEN</b> . Recovery Project, week 1
8	Reading Week	Tuesday, Nov 1 - Recovery Project, week 2. No formal tutorial, <b>Reading Week</b> .
9	L5: Causes of Extinction I: Habitat Loss & Fragmentation	Tuesday, Nov 8 - Recovery Project, week 3
10	L5: Causes of Extinction I: Habitat Loss & Fragmentation	Tuesday, Nov 15 - Recovery Project, week 4; group participation form
11	L6: Causes of Extinction II: Overexploitation	Tuesday, Nov 22 - Recovery Project, week 5
12	L7: Causes of Extinction III: Introduced and Invasive Species	Tuesday, Nov 29 - Recovery Project, week 6, <b>ORALS</b>
13	L8: Causes of Extinction IV: Pollution	Tuesday, Dec 6 - Recovery Project, week 6, <b>WRITTEN</b>

## Key Sessional Dates

Classes begin: September 8, 2022; January 9, 2023

Fall Reading Week: October 31 – November 6, 2022; February 18 – 26, 2023

Classes end: December 8, 2022; April 10, 2023

Exam period: December 10 – 22, 2022; April 13 – 30, 2023

## Contingency plans in-person class

This is an in-person course. If circumstances require it, we may pivot to online. In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online. The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

## 4. Course Materials

## Readings

Some readings are required, some are supplementary. The supplementary readings are what I have based many lectures on so they will greatly help you with content. The list of readings, where to find them, and whether required or not are listed on the Readings Tab. Required readings from textbooks, are all available in one place in our **BIO3442f COURSEPACK**, which can be purchased at the Bookstore. Readings may be added as we move along in the course. I will make them available and will always indicate whether they are required or supplemental

## Lecture, Lab and other materials:

All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>.

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

## Intellectual Property and Course Conduct Policy in the use of Lecture, Lab and other materials

All materials that are posted for and/or presented to you are for your individual use only. DO NOT re-post, share, or sell any of this content with any other person(s), including crowd sharing sources. To do so is a breach of intellectual property. Audio and/or visual recording is not allowed (unless permission is given by the instructor, following Section 6).

## 5. Methods of Evaluation

The overall course grade will be calculated as listed below:

Item	Value	Brief detail
Mid-term Project*	22.5%	In groups, students will collect data pertaining to a conservation- related question. Students will be evaluated on their oral presentation and write-up. Topics will be selected in the first tutorial session. There are topic selections available for review prior to the first tutorial on OWL → Tutorial Info
Recovery Plan Project*	22.5%	In new groups students will research the status of a Canadian species listed for evaluation via COSEWIC and write a recovery plan for the species. Students will be evaluated on their oral presentation and write-up.
News Article Presentation	5%	Individually, students will find a news article that best captures the essence and importance of a recent (within the last 2 years) conservation issue and give a quick presentation to the class outlining the issue. Power-point slides are <b>not</b> to be used.
News Article Participation	3%	The news article shall stimulate a class discussion (~5 min) after the presentation. Students will be given participation for <i>insightful</i> questions or comments pertaining to the discussion.
Mid-term Test	12%	In tutorial. Will cover all material presented on L0,L1,L2. Structure may include multiple choice, fill in the blanks and short answer questions.

Final Examination	35%		Cumulative. Structure may include multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, and long-answer, questions
<i>*Note: I will weight your projects such that your highest mark will be worth 25% and your lowest will be worth 20% of your overall grade in the course</i>			

### Course-specific conditions required

- all tutorial assignments must be completed to ensure that students demonstrate sufficient mastery of the course topic to progress.
- this is an essay course, with an F designation. Therefore, a passing grade on the two main tutorial assignments is necessary to satisfy the Senate requirement that students must demonstrate “some minimal competence in essay writing” in order to pass the course,
- completion of tutorial assignments includes MANDATORY attendance at tutorial.
- there is no make up for the in class test. If it is missed and formal accommodation granted, the percent value will be added to the final exam. Otherwise, a mark of 0% will be given.
- the final exam must be completed. If it is missed and formal accommodation granted, a make up exam will be arranged.
- queries on marked materials will be accepted for 7 days once the grade is released (for example, if you receive a grade on Monday at 9am, you may query up until the following Monday at 9am). No further consideration will be given beyond this timeline.
- it is the student’s responsibility to ensure that all graded materials are submitted properly and to the correct individuals.
- all materials posted for and/or presented to you are for your individual use only. DO NOT re-post, share, or sell any of this content with any other person(s), including crowd sharing sources. To do so is a breach of intellectual property. Audio and/or visual recording is not allowed (unless permission is given by the instructor, following Section 6.).

## 6. Student Absences

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below.

### Assessments worth 10% or more of the overall course grade:

By policy, academic considerations for work totalling 10% or more of the final course grade can be granted only by the student’s Faculty of Registration (typically by their academic counsellors). In such cases, students should be directed as follows.

For work totalling 10% or more of the final course grade, you must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to the Academic Counselling Office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as possible. For further information, please consult the University’s medical illness policy at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

The Student Medical Certificate is available at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

## Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, please contact the Academic Counselling office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

**Note:** missed work can *only* be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is **not** sufficient on its own.

## 6. Accommodation and Accessibility

### Religious Accommodation

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at

<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

### Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic\\_Accommodation\\_disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf).

## 7. Academic Policies

The website for Registrarial Services is <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>.

In accordance with policy,

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies\\_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf),

the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

A calculator that is non-programable is permitted for the test and exam. The calculator must be non-programmable. It will not have access to apps, your phone's data, or the internet. Your phone is not an adequate calculator.

**Scholastic offences** are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Remote Proctoring Software may be used in this course for test/exam, but only in the event of health lock-down. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide **personal information** (including some biometric data) and the session will be **recorded**. Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at:

<https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>.

## 8. Support Services

Please visit the Science & Basic Medical Sciences Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: <https://www.uwo.ca/sci/counselling/>.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at

[https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html).

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at

[http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html)

if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

Learning-skills counsellors at the Student Development Centre (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.

## **9. Land Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge that Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Attawandaron peoples, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. This land continues to be home to diverse Indigenous peoples (e.g. First Nations, Métis and Inuit) whom we recognize as contemporary stewards of the land and vital contributors of our society.

More information about Indigenous Services (<https://indigenous.uwo.ca/>) and this Land Acknowledgement (<https://communications.uwo.ca/comms/land-acknowledgement/>) are available.