

## **BIO3442f: Conservation Biology – Syllabus 2023**

### **1. Course Information**

#### **Lecture hours and location**

#### **Tutorial hours and location**

**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**

Students must use their Western ([@uwo.ca](mailto:@uwo.ca)) 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	Sep 8, 2023 - NO LECTURE	<i>No Tutorial</i>
1	L0: Conservation Biology Defined	<i>Tuesday, Sep 12 - No Tutorial</i>
2	L1: Biodiversity	<i>Tuesday, Sep 19 - Biodiversity Research - everyone meets in one room</i>
3	L2: Laws	<i>Tuesday, Sep 26 - Biodiversity Research - data collection and extraction</i>
4	L2: Laws	<i>Tuesday, Oct 3 - Biodiversity Research - help from TA</i>
5	L2: Laws	<i>Tuesday, Oct 10 - <b>Test 1 - in tutorial</b></i>
6	L3: Basic Steps to Diagnosis	<i>Tuesday, Oct 17 - Biodiversity Research - help from TA</i>
7	L4: Causes of Extinction I: Habitat Loss & Fragmentation	<i>Tuesday, Oct 24 - Biodiversity Research <b>DUE</b>. Begin COSEWIC Research.</i>
8	Reading Week	<i>Tuesday, Oct 31 - No formal tutorial, <b>Reading Week</b>.</i>
9	L5: Politics, Economics & the Media	<i>Tuesday, Nov 7 - COSEWIC Research - help from TA</i>
10	L4: Causes of Extinction I: Habitat Loss & Fragmentation	<i>Tuesday, Nov 14 - <b>Test 2 - in tutorial</b></i>
11	L6: Causes of Extinction II: Overexploitation	<i>Tuesday, Nov 21 - COSEWIC Research - help from TA</i>
12	L7: Causes of Extinction III: Introduced and Invasive Species	<i>Tuesday, Nov 28 - COSEWIC Research - help from TA</i>
13	L8: Causes of Extinction IV: Pollution	<i>Tuesday, Dec 5 - COSEWIC Research - <b>DUE</b>.</i>

### Key sessional dates for the fall term

Classes begin: September 7, 2023

Fall Reading Week: November 1, 2023

Classes end: December 8, 2023

Exam period: December 10 – 22, 2023

### Contingency plans in-person class

Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in person, should any university-declared emergency require some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously or asynchronously, the course will adapt accordingly. The grading scheme will **not** change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

### Technical Requirements

You will be required to have a laptop. A smart phone would also be of use for the Biodiversity Research Assignment.

## 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 will be listed on the Readings Tab. Readings will be added as we move along in the course. The information will be posted on the Readings tab where I will indicate whether the new material is required or supplemental. Please refer back to this tab often to keep updated. It is your responsibility to do so. In many lectures, I provide information from the primary literature which I cite on the lecture slides/notes. Please use these to further help you understand course content. Please see Readings tab for further details.

### Lecture, Tutorial 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:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Brief detail</b>
Test 1	15%	In tutorial. Will cover all material from previous weeks. Structure may include multiple choice, fill in the blanks and short answer questions. A non-programmable calculator may be required.
Test 2	15%	In tutorial. Will cover all material after Test 1. Structure may include multiple choice, fill in the blanks and short answer questions. A non-programmable calculator may be required
Final Examination	40%	Cumulative. Will cover all material in the course. Structure may include multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, and long-answer, questions
BIODIVERSITY Research	15%	You will collect data to measure the biodiversity of birds to compare amongst four different regions representing different habitat types/quality.
COSEWIC Research	15%	You will compile and analyze data from COSEWIC to determine how well the Species at Risk Act has been able to reduce and/or reverse population declines of listed species.

### **Important course-specific conditions that are required – please read:**

- 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.
- late assignment submissions receive a 10 % deduction per day (weekends and holidays are considered days). Submissions will only be accepted if submitted within 7 days (as above) of the due date.

- plagiarism will not be tolerated and carries a penalty of 0% for any assignment.
- make-ups for the in tutorial tests are not currently planned. If 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 up to 3 weeks once the grade is released. 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://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/academic\\_consideration.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration.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-programmable 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 appropriate 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 that we must transition to an on-line platform. 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. If you are an Accessible Education Student and require an accommodation for missing a deadline or test, please discuss this with your case officer and ask them to contact the instructor to provide instructions/recommendations. To protect student confidentiality, students should not contact the instructor directly to make such requests. If your accommodation includes having a note taker in class, please be sure that this is arranged and that your notes are delivered while lectures are in session (i.e. before classes have ended)

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.

Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website to manage your academics and well-being: <https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/>.

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.