

BIOL 3333.90
Environmental Biology
May 3-Week Mini-Term 2011
Syllabus

Class meetings: Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu 12:00-4:05pm; Bayou Building 2122

Instructor: Dr. Cindy Howard
Office: Bayou Building, Faculty Suite 3525
Telephone: (281) 283-3745 (please leave a message if you don't get an answer)
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Office hours: Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu 4:00-6:00pm; other times by appointment
Webpage: <http://sce.uhcl.edu/howard/>

Course text and materials

Hunter, ML, Jr. and J Gibbs. 2007. *Fundamentals of Conservation Biology*, 3rd ed. Blackwell Publishing, Malden MA. 497pp. ISBN 978-1-4051-3545-0.

PowerPoint slides for each lecture will be available through Blackboard 9 by 9:00am each class day. Other course information can be found at <http://sce.uhcl.edu/howard/> under Courses: BIOL 3333.

Prerequisites

No specific prerequisites; however, this course is designed for environmental science and biology majors and some course background in the sciences is assumed.

Course objectives

To provide students with an introduction to the major concepts governing environmental biology, including ecological principles, biodiversity issues, human impacts on ecological systems and practical guidelines for the responsible stewardship of biological resources.

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to associate various human activities with environmental degradation, interpret human impacts on biodiversity and natural systems, and apply this knowledge to specific examples within their chosen fields.

Course format

Informal lectures, video presentations and discussion of current topics in environmental and conservation biology. Lectures and handouts cover material that originates from the textbook and other sources. Video presentations illustrate different aspects of human impacts on environmental biology and enhance the learning opportunities in the course.

Evaluation

Three exams will be given during the term. Each exam will cover the material presented in lectures, handouts and readings from the textbook and will count one-third toward the final average for the course. All exams in this course will require a full-size (8½ x 11") scantron and pencil.

Grading scale:	A	92-100%	B	80-85%	C	70-75%	D	60-65%
	A-	88-91%	B-	78-79%	C-	68-69%	D-	58-59%
	B+	86-87%	C+	76-77%	D+	66-67%	F	<58%

All students are expected to take exams on the dates scheduled on the syllabus. Due to the contracted length of the May mini-term, there will be no make-up exams. An optional exam, covering all of the videos shown in class

during the term, will be given on the last class day following Exam 3 for students who would like to replace their lowest regular exam score. There will be no other make-up exams or make-up assignments accepted.

Class attendance

Class attendance is strongly recommended. Handout materials will be available for students who miss class; however, the handouts represent outlines of lecture material and do not contain sufficient information to succeed on exams without additional lecture notes.

Information on university closures due to weather or other events can be obtained from the UHCL hotline (281-283-2221) or <http://www.uhclemergency.info/go/site/1522/>.

The course instructor may send messages to students during the semester regarding class schedule updates or changes, using the students' university email accounts.

Incompletes and withdrawals

The last date to drop this course without a grade penalty is **May 28, 2011**. In accordance with UHCL policy, an incomplete grade (I) can only be assigned if the student is making satisfactory progress, but cannot complete the course for a documentable reason.

6 drop rule limitation

Students who entered college for the first time in Fall 2007 or later should be aware of the course drop limitation imposed by the Texas Legislature. Dropping this or any other course between the first day of class and the census date for the semester/session does not affect the 6 drop rule count. Dropping a course between the census date and the last day to drop a class (March 30) for the semester/session will count as one of your six permitted drops. Students should take this into consideration before dropping this or any other course. Visit www.uhcl.edu/records for more information on the 6 drop rule and the census date information for the semester/session.

Academic honesty

Please carefully review the UHCL Academic Honesty Policy in the current UHCL catalog. Every student enrolled in this class is expected to abide by the UHCL Honesty Code, which states, "I will be honest in all my academic activities and will not tolerate dishonesty." Your participation in this class constitutes your acceptance of the UHCL Academic Honesty Policy. Dishonesty of any kind (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on exams) is absolutely unacceptable in this course. All academic code violations will be reported to the Dean of Students and can result in a grade of "F" on an assignment or test, a grade of "F" in the course or suspension from the university (see catalog). Your written work may be checked for plagiarism at any time. For the full UHCL Academic Honesty Policy, please refer to

http://prtl.uhcl.edu/portal/page/portal/PRV/FORMS_POLICY_PROCEDURES/STUDENT_POLICIES/Academic_Honesty_Policy.

Special academic accommodations

Students requiring special academic accommodations with regard to exams, etc. should contact the Disabilities Services Office at 281-283-2627 (<http://prtl.uhcl.edu/portal/page/portal/UAO>).

Electronics

Use of cell phones, pagers, PDAs or similar electronic devices is generally not permitted during class periods. Cell phones must be silenced or turned off and must be stored out of sight for the duration of the class period. Exceptions may be made on a per class period basis and must be cleared with the course instructor prior to the start of class. Laptop computers may be used in class only for taking lecture notes.

BIOL 3333.90**Environmental Biology****May Mini-Term 2011****Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu 12:00-4:05pm****Bayou Building 2122****Course schedule (subject to revision):**

Date	Topic	Assignment (Hunter & Gibbs 2007)	Other resources
Mon 05/16	Course introduction Conservation and conservation biology	Chps. 1	#1: <i>The Environmental Cost of Growth</i>
Tue 05/17	What is biodiversity? Species diversity	Chps. 2, 3	#2: <i>The Lord of the Ants</i>
Wed 05/18	Ecosystem diversity: biomes, ecoregions and succession	Chp. 4	#3: <i>The Great Yellowstone Fire</i>
Thu 05/19	Exam 1 (12-1:45pm) Population growth and the human population problem		
Mon 05/23	Mass extinctions and global change Extinction processes	Chps. 6, 7	#4: <i>Extinction</i>
Tue 05/24	Endangered species in Texas Overexploitation: focus on fisheries	Chp. 9	#5: <i>Empty Oceans, Empty Nets</i>
Wed 05/25	Exam 2 (12-1:45pm) Ecosystem degradation and loss: overview		#6: <i>Invaders</i>
Thu 05/26	Wetland degradation and loss Ecosystem degradation and loss: pests and pesticides	Chp. 8	#7: <i>Texas: The State of Water</i>
Mon 05/30	<i>Memorial Day holiday: no class</i>		
Tue 05/31	Ecosystem degradation and loss: water and water pollution	Chp. 8	#8: <i>Strange Days on Planet Earth: Troubled Waters</i>
Wed 06/01	Ecosystem degradation and loss: air and air pollution, acid precipitation, climate change	Chp. 8	#9: <i>Strange Days on Planet Earth: The One Degree Factor</i>
Thu 06/02	Exam 3 (12-1:45pm) Optional exam over all videos (2-3 pm)		