SWES 396A Topics of Conservation Biology in Developing Countries (1 unit)

Description of Course
This seminar class gives students interested in nature conservation in developing countries the opportunity to identify focal areas and develop research topics that cater to their interests and degree programs, and will be helpful in identifying topics for an Honors Thesis. This class is also a good opportunity to develop an individual or collective research project for UA Study Abroad Summer Programs, including “Desert Ecology and Conservation Biology in Namibia”, in collaboration with other students. This class is available for Honors credit only.

Locations and Times
VSC 105 Wednesdays 9:00 – 9:50am

Instructor Information
Dr Hans-Werner Herrmann
Forbes 415B
520-621-6674
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Saguaro Hall 303
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Meetings by appointment

Course Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes
--Investigate current nature conservation challenges and research topics in developing countries
--Identify areas of interest and develop a research project
--Develop a proposal for conducting the research project
--Communicate research topics and strategies to the class

Topics
Topics related to conservation biology and other environmental challenges in developing countries. This can include plant and animal biology or behavior, microbes, water, soils, social issues of the local communities, etc. We will discuss broad scale research projects from peer-reviewed literature and the faculties’ experience and how they can be adapted to student-led research projects. This will train students to focus on the essentials and identify time and material constraints.

Course Methodology
Assigned readings and literature search, class presentations, class discussion

Teaching Format
- Instructor lectures and Specialist presentations
- Peer presentations
- Group discussion
Required Texts
A list of recommended literature will be provided. Students are responsible for obtaining literature on their respective subjects. No texts are required but a general knowledge and understanding of conservation biology, sustainable use, the “bushmeat crisis”, logging, desertification, and other environmental issues especially in developing countries will be helpful.

Required or Special Materials  N/A

Required/Recommended Knowledge
The course and activities are designed for students majoring in biology, environmental science, or a related field; however, the interdisciplinary approach will also appeal to students from other degree programs. A minimum coursework of general biology is encouraged.

Grading Policy
Incomplete grades will be given only in special circumstances in compliance with University policy.

80 points - Active participation in group discussions, instructor presentations, and specialist presentations. “Active” includes being present and mentally engaged.
20 points - Twenty minute peer presentation.

A: ≥ 90%  B: 80% - 89%  C: 70% - 79%  D: 60% - 69%  E: < 59%

For Honors Credit and Graduate Student Credit, in addition to the responsibilities listed above, students will develop a 20 point research project proposal.

Attendance Policy
Due to the nature of the course, it is important for students to attend all the classes. Each unexcused absence will result in a loss of 10 points. Information will be provided in class that will be critical to fulfilling the course objectives. Many activities require class participation and absences affect the class success.

Assignment/Testing Schedule/Due Dates

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<th>Topic/Activity</th>
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<td>Aug 28</td>
<td>Class Introduction</td>
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<td>Sept 4</td>
<td>Discussion: Role of science in conservation biology</td>
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<td>Sept 11</td>
<td>Discussion: Conservation biology in Namibia</td>
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<td>Sept 18</td>
<td>Project Descriptions due/Discussion: Student project descriptions</td>
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<td>Sept 25</td>
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Assignment Format
The Project Description is a half page summary of the proposed presentation topic submitted to D2L. The Project Proposal should be 3-5 pages double-spaced and submitted to D2L.
Classroom Behavior
Cell phone use is not permitted. In addition, the use of computers or other electronic items is strictly limited to applications directly related to class activities.

The Arizona Board of Regents’ Student Code of Conduct http://dos.web.arizona.edu/uapolicies/scc5308abcd.html#sccphilosophy, ABOR Policy 5-308, prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to one's self. See: http://policy.web.arizona.edu/~policy/threaten.shtml.

Notification of Objectionable Materials (if applicable) N/A

Special Needs and Accommodations Statement
Students who need special accommodation or services should contact the Disability Resources Center, 1224 East Lowell Street, Tucson, AZ 85721, (520) 621-3268, FAX (520) 621-9423, email: uadrc@email.arizona.edu, http://drc.arizona.edu/. You must register and request that the Center or DRC and send me official notification of your accommodations needs as soon as possible. Please plan to meet with me by appointment or during office hours to discuss accommodations and how my course requirements and activities may impact your ability to fully participate. The need for accommodations must be documented by the appropriate office.

Student Code of Academic Integrity
Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercises must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students are expected to adhere to the UA Code of Academic Integrity as described in the UA General Catalog. See: http://dos.web.arizona.edu/uapolicies/.

Confidentiality of Student Records
http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/ferpa/default.htm

Subject to Change Statement
Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policy, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Maintained by College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Office of Academic Programs, Forbes room 201, 621-3613.