



UNIVERSITY OF  
ALBERTA



**REN R 364 / BIOL 230  
PRINCIPLES OF MANAGING NATURAL DIVERSITY / CONSERVATION BIOLOGY**

In Winter 2018, BIOL 230, *Conservation Biology*, is being offered at Yukon College concurrent with the University of Alberta's REN R 364, *Principles of Managing Natural Diversity*, as part of the Northern Environmental and Conservation Sciences, B.Sc. Program. All students registered in BIOL 230 or RENR 364 must adhere to requirements outlined in this course syllabus. University of Alberta students must also be aware of, and adhere to, the University's Code of Student Behaviour, referenced in the outline; Yukon College students must be aware of, and adhere to, Yukon College's Academic Regulations, also referenced in the outline.

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**INSTRUCTOR:** Larry Gray, Adjunct Professor,  
University of Alberta  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday & Wednesday, 10:30-noon  
**OFFICE LOCATION:** A2303  
**TELEPHONE/E-MAIL:** 456-8607 / [lgray@yukoncollege.yk.ca](mailto:lgray@yukoncollege.yk.ca)

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**DAYS & TIMES:** Mondays/Wednesdays, 1:00-2:30 pm (room A2601)

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This is an introductory course assessing the essentials of a fairly broad and sometimes value-laden discipline addressing the crisis faced in the management of species at risk. The diversity of life on the planet earth is the focus, its values, its threats and potential solutions to its demise. Three aspects will be emphasized: Basic factual content and principles; Individualized research and reporting; and Class interaction and discussion skill.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- a) Students will be able to clearly understand the nature of and the reasons for the biodiversity crisis faced by life on earth. The places on the planet where biodiversity is greatest and under the greatest threats will be understood.
- b) Students will be able to understand and verbalize ethical debates about the role of humans in creating biodiversity collapse.

- c) The nature of the threats to all life on earth by the loss of diversity will be understood. Arguments against the threats posed by the loss of diversity will be exposed clearly.
- d) The process of extinction and the nature of population, community and ecosystem collapse will be understood.
- e) Methods for using statutes and other public processes for cataloguing, assessing, and listing species according to the risks they are under for extinction will be understood and applied.
- f) The basic recovery strategies for species at risk will be understood.
- g) Students will learn to use the concepts of defending and proposing management strategy addressing biodiversity crisis in verbal presentation and debate in small public forum.

### DELIVERY METHODS/FORMAT (3-0-0)

The course content will be covered in lectures and short field trips during class time.

### PREREQUISITES

*For students taking the course as BIOL 230:* BIOL 101/102 or equivalent.

*For students taking the course as REN R 364:* Registration in Yukon College/University of Alberta B.Sc. in Environmental and Conservation Sciences degree program, and successful completion of U of A BIOL 108, or YC BIOL 101 and 102, or equivalent.

### REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/MATERIALS

Primack, R.B. 2016. *Essentials of Conservation Biology (6th)*: Sinauer

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS/EVALUATION

#### Assignments/Exams

1. Mini Mid-Term Exams (35% of the course)
2. **Advocacy Paper: oral and written (35% of course):** Students will be called upon to prepare an advocacy paper and will present a 15-minute oral report on a conservation biology issue (may be species or ecosystem oriented). The report will summarize the scientific knowledge about a particular species or ecosystem followed by a persuasive explanation and argument for some recommended conservation action which the student is urging the assembled 'decision makers' to adopt. Evaluation will be on both content and effectiveness of presentation including responses to critical questions.
  -  **Credit for ENCS 364 will involve successfully preparing and presenting a more comprehensive product of the above: details will be provided in class.**

### 3. Final Exam (30% of course):

#### Assignment of grades

*Grades will NOT be adjusted to fit a predetermined distribution.* The total numerical score will be converted to a grade on the University of Alberta's letter grading system (for students enrolled in REN R 364) or on Yukon College's letter grading system (for students enrolled in BIOL 230).

#### UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND CODE OF STUDENT BEHAVIOUR

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

Key components of the code include the following statements regarding Inappropriate Academic Behaviour:

#### 30.3.2 Inappropriate Academic Behaviour

##### 30.3.2(1) Plagiarism

No Student shall submit the words, ideas, images or data of another person as the Student's own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, project, assignment, presentation or poster in a course or program of study.

##### 30.3.2(2) Cheating

**30.3.2(2) a** No Student shall in the course of an examination or other similar activity, obtain or attempt to obtain information from another Student or other unauthorized source, give or attempt to give information to another Student, or use, attempt to use or possess for the purposes of use any unauthorized material.

**30.3.2(2) b** No Student shall represent or attempt to represent him or herself as another or have or attempt to have himself or herself represented by another in the taking of an examination, preparation of a paper or other similar activity. See also misrepresentation in 30.3.6 (4).

**30.3.2(2) c** No student shall represent another's substantial editorial or compositional assistance on an assignment as the Student's own work.

**30.3.2(2) d** No Student shall submit in any course or program of study, without the written approval of the course Instructor, all or a substantial portion of any academic writing, essay, thesis, research report, project, assignment, presentation or poster for which credit has previously been obtained by the Student or which has been or is being submitted by the Student in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.

**30.3.2(2) e** No Student shall submit in any course or program of study any academic writing, essay, thesis, report, project, assignment, presentation or poster containing a statement of fact known by the Student to be false or a reference to a source the Student knows to contain fabricated claims (unless acknowledged by the Student), or a fabricated reference to a source.

### **30.3.2(3) Misuse of Confidential Materials**

No Student shall procure, distribute, or receive any confidential academic material such as pending examinations, laboratory results or the contents thereof from any source without prior and express consent of the Instructor.

## **EQUIVALENCY/TRANSFERABILITY**

BIOL 230 transfers as: UBC, UVIC, UNBC, SFU: 3Credits, 200 level; direct transfer in progress.

For current information on course transferability see <http://www.bctransferguide.ca>

## **ACADEMIC AND STUDENT CONDUCT**

Information on academic standing and student rights and responsibilities can be found in the current Academic Regulations that are posted on the Student Services/ Admissions & Registration web page.

## **PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Plagiarism occurs when students present the words of someone else as their own. Plagiarism can be the deliberate use of a whole piece of another person's writing, but more frequently it occurs when students fail to acknowledge and document sources from which they have taken material. Whenever the words, research or ideas of others are directly quoted or paraphrased, they must be documented according to an accepted manuscript style (e.g., APA, CSE, MLA, etc.). Resubmitting a paper which has previously received credit is also considered plagiarism. Students who plagiarize material for assignments will receive a mark of zero (F) on the assignment and may fail the course. Plagiarism may also result in dismissal from a program of study or the College.

## **YUKON FIRST NATIONS CORE COMPETENCY**

Yukon College recognizes that a greater understanding and awareness of Yukon First Nations history, culture and journey towards self-determination will help to build positive relationships among all Yukon citizens. As a result, to graduate from ANY Yukon College program, you will be required to achieve core competency in knowledge of Yukon First Nations. For details, please see [www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/yfnccr](http://www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/yfnccr)

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

Reasonable accommodations are available for students requiring an academic accommodation to fully participate in this class. These accommodations are available for students with a documented disability, chronic condition or any other grounds specified in section 8.0 of the Yukon College Academic Regulations (available on the Yukon College website). It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations. If a student requires an academic accommodation, he/she should contact the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC) at (867) 668-8785 or [lassist@yukoncollege.yk.ca](mailto:lassist@yukoncollege.yk.ca).

## **THE LORENE ROBERTSON WRITING CENTRE**

All students are encouraged to make the Writing Centre a regular part of the writing process for coursework. The Lorene Robertson Writing Centre is staffed by helpful writing coaches from across the College and offers one-on-one appointments to students in need of writing support.

The Lorene Robertson Writing Centre can help you:

- Get started on an assignment and focus your ideas
- Outline and plan your assignment
- Write clearly, logically and effectively
- Address specific needs and writing problems
- Revise the first and final drafts of your project
- Gain confidence in your writing

For in-person appointments, the Centre coaching office is located in the Academic Support Centre in room A2302. You can also participate in coaching appointments over the phone or online. See the Academic Support Centre schedule for English and writing support times.

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COURSE SYLLABUS**

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>
1	January 4	Course Introduction
2	January 9, 11	Chapter 1 What is Conservation Biology?
3	January 16, 18	Chapter 2 What is Biodiversity? Chapter 3 Where is the World's Biodiversity Found?
4	January 23, 25	Chapter 4 Ecological Economics
5	January 30, Feb 1	Chapter 5 Indirect Use Values Chapter 6 Ethical Values
6	February 6, 8	Chapter 7 Extinction
7	February 13, 15	Chapter 8 Vulnerability to Extinction
8	February 20, 22	<b>READING WEEK - NO CLASSES ☹</b>
9	February 27, March 1	Chapter 9 Habitat Destruction, Fragmentation, Degradation and Global Climate Change
10	March 6, 8	Chapter 10 Overexploitation, Invasive Species and Disease
11	March 13, 15	Chapter 11 Problems of Small Populations Chapter 12 Applied Population Biology
12	March 20, 22	Chapter 13 Establishing New Populations
13	March 27, 29	Chapter 14 Ex Situ Conservation Strategies
14	April 3, 5	Chapter 22 An Agenda for the Future Course Review