

EEB 2208 (Introduction to Conservation Biology)

Grading and Other Class Policies

Distribution of points: Grades will be based on one midterm (worth 20% of the final grade), a final exam (worth 30% of the final grade), short in-class writing exercises (collectively worth 10% of the final grade), short weekly quizzes/homework assignments (collectively worth 10% of the final grade) and a group project presented as a poster towards the end of the semester (worth 30% of the final grade). Details of each assignment will be provided in class over the course of the first few class periods, and will be posted on the web site.

Grade assignments: I do not grade on a curve, because that approach limits the number of students who can get high grades and can therefore disadvantage students who work hard and learn all of the material: if everyone gains a superior understanding of the material, then everyone will get a good grade. I also do not give extra credit because that leads to potential inequities among students, which I consider unfair. Grades will be assigned according to the following scheme, based on a total of 100 points for all course work:

Percent	Grade	Interpretation*
> 90	A	Excellent
88-90	A-	Excellent
87-88	B+	Very Good
82-87	B	Good
80-82	B-	Good
78-80	C+	Good
72-78	C	Average
70-72	C-	Fair
68-70	D+	Poor
62-68	D	Poor
60-62	D-	Merely Passing
< 60	F	Failure

*Interpretations are based on the undergraduate catalog's description of each letter grade.

Exams/homework assignments: The mid-term, final, and all other graded activities, will be administered through HuskyCT, which will serve as the primary means of student authentication. Exams will be open book, will be time-limited (i.e., once started they must be completed within a fixed time), but will be set up with a 24-hour window within which they can be taken to accommodate those in different time zones or other timing constraints. Homework answers will all be posted within HuskyCT but may not be copied or reposted elsewhere (see also Statement on Copyright, below). Exam answers will not be posted online, but you are welcome to make appointments with me or the class TA to discuss them. I will not be using Lockdown Browser or Respondus.

Due dates and late policy: All course due dates are identified in the [schedule on the course web site](#). Deadlines are based on US Eastern Time unless otherwise specified. The instructor reserves the right to change dates as the semester progresses, but I guarantee that I will not move any assignment due dates forward. All changes will be communicated via HuskyCT announcements and/or UConn student email addresses. All assignments and deadlines are designed to accommodate students living in different time zones; if you are not in the eastern USA, please let me know so that I am aware of any timing constraints you face.

Information on due dates for all assignments will be made available long in advance, and allowances have been made in the course grading structure to enable students to miss a small number of assignments of the student's choosing. Consequently, late work will be accepted only in extraordinary circumstances that require prolonged absence from class (see section on extended absences, below). Please reference the Homework Overview, Discussion Papers, and Poster Project documents in the Important Course Documents section of the web site for details.

Re-grading: I will happily re-grade any exam or assignment if a student feels that there is a mistake. Re-grading will involve a fresh assessment of the entire exam/assignment, to ensure that there are no other errors. If you would like me to re-grade then please provide a written description of the problem you perceive, explaining the problem in light of the answers I have provided. If I have simply added up points wrong, then please let me know as soon as possible so that I can fix things (notification of such problems does not need to be in writing). All grading appeals must be made within one week of the day on which results are returned.

Make-up exams: Taking an exam outside of the designated time will only be allowed under extraordinary circumstances beyond your control (e.g., a serious health problem or family emergency; note that a vacation is not a good a reason). Make-up exams may take the form of long-form, essay questions that require you to synthesize information across the course material.

Please note that I am not authorized to reschedule final exams. Consequently, I will only consider allowing a make-up on the final if you have already obtained written permission from the Dean of Students Office (486-3426; <https://dos.uconn.edu/reschedule-finals/>).

Student authentication and verification: The University of Connecticut is required to verify the identity of students who participate in distance learning and online courses and to establish that students who register in an online course are the same students who participate in and complete the course activities and assessments and receive academic credit. Verification and authentication of student identity in this course will include:

- Secure access to the learning management system using your unique UConn NetID and password.
- Video conference meetings with poster project groups.

Academic misconduct and plagiarism: The penalties for anyone found to have committed plagiarism or any form of academic misconduct are severe. All students should read the Student Code (<http://community.uconn.edu/the-student-code-preamble/>) with great care. In particular, pay attention to *Appendix A: Academic Integrity in Undergraduate Education and Research* which describes acts that constitute academic misconduct and the penalties that can be imposed. Note, especially the following quote from section A3 in this document: “The appropriate academic consequence for serious offenses is generally considered to be **failure in the course**” (my emphasis).

On-line teaching creates many opportunities and much temptation to cheat, but know also that I intend to use all tools at my disposal to identify anyone who takes this route and that I will not hesitate to impose serious penalties. For me to act otherwise would be unfair to the majority of students who are honorable and take their education seriously.

If you have questions about academic misconduct, please consult the on-line information available on the web site of the Dean of Students Office, or make an appointment to talk to me about the issue. Understanding what does and does not constitute academic misconduct is your responsibility.

For the purposes of this course anything that you write that is not phrased in your own original words will be considered plagiarism. Minor reorganization of someone else's words is plagiarism. Any time that you use someone else's words, those words should be enclosed in quotes and be attributed, or their use will be considered to be plagiarism. Extensive quotation of someone else (even if attributed) is not acceptable for any of the work in this class and also will be considered to be plagiarism. "Extensive" in this instance means more than a sentence. Please take these warnings very seriously and do not take the risk that I might not notice – the potential costs are simply not worth it. For more information on this topic, see the separate document on plagiarism on the course website.

Attendance: Class will meet synchronously online through Blackboard Collaborate. I do not take attendance and you are free to make your own decisions about whether or not you attend. Much happens in class, however, that cannot be obtained via other media (e.g., my web notes, readings, etc.) and my experience is that students who regularly skip lectures usually get lower grades. This semester, I am experimenting with a format that is designed to help accommodate asynchronous attendance for those with time zone or other constraints that make regular class attendance difficult. I will provide pre-recorded lectures and other materials to make it possible to learn the core information even if you do not attend class. Synchronous attendance in class, however, will give you a chance to interact directly with me and other students, and I hope will make learning much easier. I strongly encourage you to attend class if you are able.

Recording class sessions: The web-based video lectures used in this course will be pre-recorded and are for the sole use of students enrolled in the course. These videos may be watched online via HuskyCT. Any other use of these class videos, or any pictures or derivatives of the class videos, without the written consent of the course's professor, is prohibited.

To help students feel comfortable about talking freely and sharing video in class, synchronous portions of the course will not be recorded by the instructor. Recording and sharing any portion of the class sessions is prohibited.

Statement on copyright: My lectures, class videos, notes, handouts, homework assignments (and answers), and displays are protected by state common law and federal copyright law. They are my own original expression and I have recorded them prior or during my lecture in order to ensure that I obtain copyright protection. Students are authorized to take notes in my class; however, this authorization extends only to making one set of notes for your own personal use and no other use. Recording my lectures is prohibited, except by special arrangement and with individual permission granted by me. If you are so authorized to record my lectures, you may not copy this recording or any other material, provide copies of any class materials to anyone else, post materials online or enable others to do so, or make a commercial use of them without prior permission from me. Any violation of these rules will result in the filing of a report to UConn's Community Standards office.

Students with disabilities: The University of Connecticut is committed to protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities and assuring that the learning environment is accessible. Students who require accommodations should contact the Center for Students with Disabilities, Wilbur Cross Building Room 204, (860) 486-2020 or <http://csd.uconn.edu/>.

Blackboard measures and evaluates accessibility using two sets of standards: the WCAG 2.0 standards issued by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act issued in the United States federal government." (Retrieved March 24, 2013 from [Blackboard's website](#)).

Resources for students experiencing distress: The University of Connecticut is committed to supporting students in their mental health, their psychological and social well-being, and their connection

to their academic experience and overall wellness. The university believes that academic, personal, and professional development can flourish only when each member of our community is assured equitable access to mental health services. The university aims to make access to mental health attainable while fostering a community reflecting equity and diversity and understands that good mental health may lead to personal and professional growth, greater self-awareness, increased social engagement, enhanced academic success, and campus and community involvement.

Students who feel they may benefit from speaking with a mental health professional can find support and resources through the [Student Health and Wellness-Mental Health](#) (SHaW-MH) office. Through SHaW-MH, students can make an appointment with a mental health professional and engage in confidential conversations or seek recommendations or referrals for any mental health or psychological concern. Mental health services are included as part of the university's student health insurance plan and also partially funded through university fees. If you do not have UConn's student health insurance plan, most major insurance plans are also accepted. Students can visit the Student Health and Wellness-Mental Health located in Storrs on the main campus in the Arjona Building, 4th Floor, or contact the office at (860) 486-4705, or <https://studenthealth.uconn.edu/> for services or questions.

Accommodations for illness or extended absences: Although this course is being taught online, please note that you should stay home from any in-person classes you are taking if you are feeling ill. If your ability to participate in this class is affected by illness or other factors, it is your responsibility to notify me as soon as possible. You do not need to disclose the nature of your illness or circumstance, however, you will need to work with me to determine how you will complete coursework during your absence. If you have a short-term illness or conflict that affects only a class or two, there is no need to inform me.

If life circumstances are affecting your ability to focus on courses and your UConn experience, students can email the Dean of Students at dos@uconn.edu to request support. Regional campus students should email the Student Services staff at their home campus to request support and faculty notification.

COVID-19 Specific Information: People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. These symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus and can include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

Additional information, including what to do if you test positive or you are informed through contact tracing that you were in contact with someone who tested positive, and answers to other important questions can be found here: <https://studenthealth.uconn.edu/updates-events/coronavirus/>.

Policy against discrimination, harassment and related interpersonal violence: The University is committed to maintaining an environment free of discrimination or discriminatory harassment directed toward any person or group within its community – students, employees, or visitors. Academic and professional excellence can flourish only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of mutual respect. All members of the University community are responsible for the maintenance of an academic and work environment in which people are free to learn and work without fear of discrimination

or discriminatory harassment. In addition, inappropriate amorous relationships can undermine the University's mission when those in positions of authority abuse or appear to abuse their authority. To that end, and in accordance with federal and state law, the University prohibits discrimination and discriminatory harassment, as well as inappropriate amorous relationships, and such behavior will be met with appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the University. Additionally, to protect the campus community, all non-confidential University employees (including faculty) are required to report sexual assaults, intimate partner violence, and/or stalking involving a student that they witness or are told about to the Office of Institutional Equity. The University takes all reports with the utmost seriousness. Please be aware that while the information you provide will remain private, it will not be confidential and will be shared with University officials who can help. More information is available at equity.uconn.edu and titleix.uconn.edu.

Information from the Office of Emergency Management on emergency preparedness: In case of inclement weather, a natural disaster, or a campus emergency, the University communicates through email and text message. Students are encouraged to sign up for alerts through <http://alert.uconn.edu>. Students should be aware of emergency procedures, and further information is available through the Office of Emergency Management at <http://publicsafety.uconn.edu/emergency/>.

Privacy statement: For information on managing your privacy at the University of Connecticut, visit the [University's Privacy page](#).

NOTE: This course has NOT been designed for use with mobile devices.