

ESM 270P: Conservation Planning Practicum

Course Syllabus, Fall 2017

Instructor: Professor Ashley Larsen (Larsen@bren.ucsb.edu)

Prof. Larsen's Office hours: Weds 10:45-11:45@ GIS lab (and by appointment).

Teaching Assistant: Owen Liu (oliu@bren.ucsb.edu)

Office hours: TBD (and by appointment).

Class: **Monday, Wednesday 9:30-10:45 (GIS lab)**

The objectives of this course are for you to:

1. Gain practical experience developing a conservation plan, start-to-finish
2. Gain experience communicating technical material to broad audience using diverse approaches

Course Structure: This course is designed for hands-on experience. Most classes will be working labs, some will include a short lectures on key topics to get class started. The goal of this course is to give you time to use what you learned in 270 and extend your practical knowledge of conservation planning. You are expected to be creative, motivated and problem solve. Some days will go smoothly, other days you will spend class trouble shooting an error. Use your theoretical and practical knowledge from previous coursework, consult google and the academic literature when necessary, and be as thorough as possible. Consider this course a dry run on developing a conservation plan.

Lectures: Lectures will be rare and short. Feel free to let Owen or Ashley know if you want supplementary readings on a general topic.

Lab: This is a lab course. You are strongly encouraged to use your GP project as the basis for your conservation plan. If there are multiple people from a single GP, you will need to coordinate so you do separate but complementary projects. Using your GP, you will hopefully be able to make substantial progress on your project or take it in a new direction that would otherwise be impossible.

Grading (165 pts total):

Written assignments* (100 pts):

Conservation plan proposal: 10 pts

Data description and meta-data: 10 pts

Report outline + detailed methods: 10 pts

Peer evaluation of presentations & stakeholder comments: 10pts

Press release: 10 pts

Final report: 50 pts

Presentations (40 pts):

Practice presentation: 10 pts

Final class presentation: 30 pts

Participation** (25 pts)

*Assignments are due at the start of class on the day listed. Late assignments will lose 1 point if it is not turned in before lab and 1 additional point each day that it is late.

Attendance is necessary, but not sufficient to obtain participation points. Attendance includes being on time and staying the entire period. Participation points are for being engaged, self-motivated, and willing to help your neighbor from time-to-time. Please email the instructor **prior to class (Larsen@bren.ucsb.edu) to request an excused absence in the case of illness or family emergency. In the case of a unique career opportunity (e.g. international conference, interview, etc), please email the instructor as early as possible in the quarter to arrange make-up work.

Note that assignments are back-loaded to the end of the quarter. Please plan ahead!

Week 1

MO, Oct 1: Class overview, summer recap, overview of the conservation planning process.

WE, Oct 3: CP tools recap & project discussion.

Discussion: please be ready to give a very brief pitch (5min) of your proposed project--the focal topic, the data you have in-hand already and what you plan to get. If there are others in your GP in class, prep this discussion together.

Optional reading: Example conservation plan (gauchospace).

*we strongly encourage you to use your GP. If you do not want to do so, please come to office hours on Wednesday to discuss a plan B (other topics of interest or case studies we have available).

Week 2

MO, Oct 9: Data management lecture & discussion; Working lab

WE, Oct 11: Working lab

Assignment 1: Conservation plan proposal; data management in place

Week 3

MO, Oct 16: Working lab

WE, Oct 18: Working lab

Week 4

MO, Oct 23: What makes a compelling and useful report (mini-lecture), working lab

WE, Oct 25: working lab; **sign up for 'mid-course progress check-in' time slot**

Assignment 2: Data description + metadata

Week 5

MO, Oct 30: mid-course check-in (focus on big picture, not technical stuff); working lab

WE, Nov 1: mid-course check-in; working lab

Week 6

MO, Nov 6: [lecture TBD]; working lab

Assignment 3: Report outline + detailed methods

WE, Nov 8: problem solving session [shared learning]

Week 7

MO, Nov 13: working lab

WE, Nov 15: working lab

Week 8

MO, Nov 20: What makes a good presentation (lecture); working lab

WE, Nov 22: working lab (optional)

Sign up for slot to do practice presentation on Monday

Week 9

MO, Nov 27: Practice presentations (groups of 3--1 presenter, 2 reviewers. Rotate)

Assignment 4: Practice presentations

WE, Nov 29: Working lab

Assignment 5: Written comments on two other presenters (provide peer feedback on presentation quality & comments/questions as a stakeholder).

Week 10

MO, Nov 4: working lab

Assignment 6: Press release on key project results

WE, Dec 6: final presentations (this class will extend into office hours, or a second class will need to be scheduled)

Assignment 7: Final presentations

Finals Week

Due by 5pm Wednesday, Dec. 14

Assignment 8: Final report