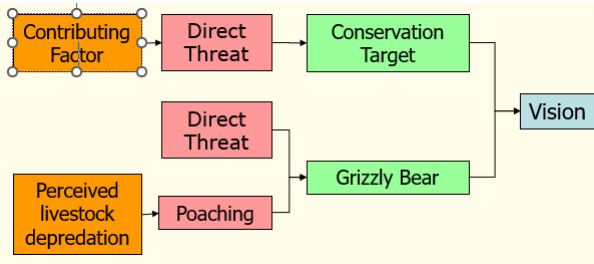


WIS 6934 Conservation Practice (3 Credits)

Instructor:

Lyn Branch, UF Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation,
Office and lab where course will be taught: Room 008, Building 737, 2668 Hull Road
E-mail: BranchL@ufl.edu

Class time: Wednesday/Periods (periods 5-7, 11:45 AM -2:45 PM). The course will include in-class sessions and virtual talks by guest conservation practitioners.



Course Description:

This course will explore conservation problems and approaches and provide students with a greater understanding of conservation practice "on the ground" and the skills needed for an effective career in conservation. Early in the semester, students will be introduced to evidence-based conservation and strategic conservation planning. Students will practice building conceptual models and theories of change for conservation problems, which is a fundamental part of the planning process. The remainder of the semester will comprise talks/discussions with experts from a broad spectrum of organizations (e.g., government agencies, non-governmental organizations, consulting firms, etc.). These experts will provide overviews of their conservation work and insights into the conservation profession, including challenges, opportunities, and key skills needed.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students should:

- Understand the need for evidence-based conservation.
- Know how to construct a conceptual model for a conservation project.
- Be familiar with approaches and problems addressed by diverse conservation organizations.
- Have knowledge of the skills needed for different types of conservation jobs.



Class date	Topic	Tentative Schedule for Conservation Practice course, Spring 2024	
Week 1	10-Jan	Overview of class, Introduction to Conservation Measures Partnership and Conservation Standards as a basis for evidenced-based conservation. (by Lyn)	Set up student teams for conservation planning exercises.
Week 2	17-Jan	Overview of situation analysis and conceptual models for conservation problems. (by Lyn)	Students work in teams.
Week 3	24-Jan	Introduction to theories of change and strategic conservation planning. (by Lyn)	Students work in teams.
		Insights from Conservation Practitioners	Organization
Week 4	31-Jan	Lily Maynard, Director of Global Conservation	Cincinnati Zoo
Week 5	7-Feb	Elaine Imbruglia, Herpetologist and Director	MODICA & Associates (Environmental consulting firm)
Week 6	14-Feb	Joanna Reilly-Brown, Springs Project Coordinator	Alachua County Land Trust
Week 7	21-Feb	Ashley Egan, Wildlife and Habitat Biologist	Jackson and Blackrock Ranger District, Bridger-Teton National Forest, US Forest Service, Jackson WY
Week 8	28-Feb	Harry Jones, Southwest Avian Biologist	The Institute for Bird Populations (Non-profit conservation organization)
Week 9	6-Mar	Sandra Hamilton, Fish and Wildlife Biologist	Listing & Recovery Division, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Carlsbad Field Office, Carlsbad, CA
Week 10	13-Mar	Spring break - no class	
Week 11	20-Mar	UF Peace Corps representative and SNRE/WEC alumnus Nick Gengler	US Peace Corps
Week 12	27-Mar	McKayla Spencer, Wildlife biologist	Nonnative Fish and Wildlife Section, Habitat and Species Management Division, FWC
Week 13	3-Apr	Speaker to be determined	WildLandscapes International (Non-profit conservation organization)
Week 14	10-Apr	Stacey Gallagher, Development and Policy Coordinator/Lighting Project Specialist	Sea Turtle Conservancy

Week 15	17-Apr	Student teams present conceptual models and theories of change	
Week 16	24-Apr	Final course wrap-up.	

Grades will be assigned based on three criteria:

60% Participation in class discussion of expert talks and class readings

40% Effort in building conceptual models and theories of change for conservation problems.

UF's required grading scale: A (94% or greater), A- (90%-93%), B+ (87%-89%), B (84%-86%), B- (80%-83%), C+ (77%-79%), C (74%-76%), C- (70%-73%), D+ (67%-69%), D (64%-66%), D- (60%-63%), E (<60%)

Academic Honesty, Software Use, UF Counseling Services, Services for Students with Disabilities

In 1995 the UF student body enacted a new honor code and voluntarily committed itself to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. When students enroll at the university, they commit themselves to the standard drafted and enacted by students.

In adopting this honor code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the university community. Students who enroll at the university commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the honor code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the honor code is bound by honor to take corrective action. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon community acceptance and enforcement of the honor code.

The Honor Code: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Students should report any condition that facilitates dishonesty to the instructor, department chair, college dean or Student Honor Court.

Software Use:

All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. Both the Counseling Center and Student Mental Health Services provide confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services. Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.

University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>) and also discuss any special needs with the instructor.