

EPBIOL 140: Foundations of Conservation Science

Online

Semester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

The Pathways and Academic Learning Support Centre recognises and respects the unique history and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their unbroken relationship with the lands and the waters of Australia over millennia. We are dedicated to reconciliation and to offering opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to access and succeed in higher education. The Centre is committed to providing a culturally safe and inclusive environment for all.

OVERVIEW

Course Description This course provides an informative introduction to the fundamental aspects of biology relevant to the many issues confronting us in today's environmentally conscious world, whilst considering the sustainable use and conservation of the natural environment.

Although it will form the basis for subsequent study in this area anyone with an interest in environmental issues, but not wishing to pursue studies in science, will also find it an informative insight into the natural world.

Topics include genetics, evolution, the diversity of life, extinctions and captive breeding.

Academic Progress Requirements

Nil

Requisites

If you have successfully completed EPBIOL340 you cannot enrol in this course.

Contact Hours

Online Self-Directed Learning
Self-Directed
2 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1
Self-Directed learning is equivalent to face-to-face contact hours. It involves engagement with course materials that are delivered at a time that suits you via short videos, course notes, podcasts, readings and other activities.

Tutorial
Online
1 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1

Unit Weighting

10

Workload

Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

COURSE OUTLINE

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator	Miss Louise Williams Louise.Williams@newcastle.edu.au Consultation: Please email to schedule an appointment.	
Teaching Staff	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.	
School Office	Callaghan Ground Floor, General Purpose Building (GP) Ph: 02 4921 5558 enabling@newcastle.edu.au	Ourimbah HO 168, Humanities Building Ph: 02 4348 4076 enabling@newcastle.edu.au

SYLLABUS

Course Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental protection, sustainability and conservation• Systematics and taxonomy; the diversity of life• Genes and genetics; conservation genetics• Evolution: theory and evidence; genetics and natural selection• Biodiversity threats; ex situ conservation; wildlife trade
Course Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this course, students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Define, explain and apply key concepts in conservation science.2. Utilise data and produce and interpret diagrams relevant to conservation science.3. Relate theory to practical applications in conservation science.4. Produce a report or address issues in conservation science by critical thinking, drawing conclusions, and synthesising information and key concepts.
Course Materials	All course materials will be provided on the course Canvas site. Students are not required to purchase a textbook.

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb	Module 1: Learning in EPBIOL140; Environmental protection and sustainability	Course Outline Course Notes	
2	4 Mar	Module 2: Life's diversity and reasons to conserve	Course Notes	
3	11 Mar	Module 3: Genetics: Fundamentals for conservation	Course Notes	Online Quiz 1 Tutorial Activity 1 – Summarising and Paraphrasing
4	18 Mar	Module 4: Genetics: Evolutionary aspects	Course Notes	
5	25 Mar	There are no classes in Week 5		Online Quiz 2 Tutorial Activity 2 - Mendelian Genetics
6	1 Apr	Module 5: Genetics: Implications and applications	Course Notes	
7	8 Apr	Module 6: Urban wildlife	Course Notes	Tutorial Activity 3 – Working with Data
Recess				
Recess				
8	29 Apr	Module 7: Biodiversity: Definitions and measures	Course Notes	Online Quiz 3
9	6 May	Module 8: Biodiversity: Threats	Course Notes	Annotated Bibliography
10	13 May	Module 9: Biodiversity: Ex situ conservation	Course Notes	Online Quiz 4 Tutorial Activity 4 – Genetic Drift
11	20 May	Module 10: Extinctions: Causes and avoidance	Course Notes	Tutorial Activity 5 – Ex Situ Conservation
12	27 May	Module 11: Trading in wildlife	Course Notes	Online Quiz 5 Multimedia Presentation
13	3 Jun	Module 12: Environmental Case Study: Lord Howe Island	Course Notes	Online Quiz 6 (closes 16 th June)
Examination Period				
Examination Period				

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 4 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Online Quizzes	Sunday 11:59pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17th March • 31st March • 21st April • 19th May • 2nd June 16 th June	Individual	10%	1
2	Annotated Bibliography	Sunday 12 th May 11:59pm	Individual	25%	4
3	Tutorial Activities	Sunday 11:59pm Weeks 3, 5, 7, 10, 11	Individual	40%	1, 2, 3, 4
4	Multimedia Presentation	Sunday 2 nd June 11:59pm	Individual	25%	1, 2, 3, 4

Late Submissions

The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 5% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

Assessment 1 - Online Quizzes

Assessment Type Description

Quiz

Six (6) online topic quizzes are used to assess your knowledge of key concepts relevant to conservation science.

The results from the best five (of the six) quizzes will contribute a total of 10% to your final mark, with each quiz consisting of 15 multiple choice questions and/or True/False questions based on material contained in the lectures, tutorials and readings. Each quiz can only be attempted once, will be available to attempt for fourteen days and will have a time limit of 25 minutes. Although the quizzes are available for fourteen days, you should complete them as early as possible.

Please note that the quizzes will lock at 11.59pm on their specified closing date (see below) and will not be able to be completed after that time. Accordingly, you are advised to attempt the quizzes at the earliest opportunity. If, due to unforeseen long-term circumstances only, you are unable to complete a quiz by the due date, please advise the course coordinator before the quiz closing date. Quiz marks will be recorded in Grades within the Course Canvas site to allow you to monitor your progress.

The online quizzes will cover the topics listed below and become available at 9.00am on Monday and close at 11.59pm Sunday on the dates shown.

Quiz	Open	Close	Topics
4 March	17 March	4 March	Module 1 and Course Outline
18 March	31 March	18 March	Module 2 and Module 3
8 April	5 May	8 April	Module 4 and Module 5
6 May	19 May	6 May	Module 6 and Module 7
20 May	2 June	20 May	Module 8 and Module 9
3 June	16 June	3 June	Module 10 and Module 11

Weighting

10%

Due Date

Sunday 11:59pm Weeks 3, 4, 7, 10, 12, 13

Submission Method

Online

Assessment Criteria

Correct answers

Return Method

Online

Feedback Provided

Feedback will be provided in Canvas upon completion of each quiz

Assessment 2 - Annotated Bibliography

Assessment Type	Annotated Bibliography
Description	The Annotated Bibliography allows you to develop reading, summarising, paraphrasing, writing and referencing skills. You will provide a brief summary of the available research on a given topic that includes a number of research articles, a description of each and an evaluation of their reliability as an information source.
Weighting	25%
Due Date	Sunday 12th May 11:59pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Rubric provided on Canvas
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

Assessment 3 - Tutorial Activities

Assessment Type	Tutorial / Laboratory Exercises
Description	Tutorial Activities consist of work completed across the semester and includes work undertaken in tutorials as well as before and after classes. Tutorial Activities and submission documents will be available on Canvas.
Weighting	40%
Due Date	Sunday 11:59pm Weeks 3, 5, 7, 10, 11
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Rubric provided on Canvas
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

Assessment 4 - Multimedia Presentation

Assessment Type	Presentation
Description	The Multimedia Presentation will be a 3-minute recorded presentation telling the story (issue, facts, science, solutions) of a biodiversity conservation issue of interest to the student. It can take the form of a video, an animation or any other recorded multimedia medium.
Weighting	25%
Due Date	Sunday 2 nd June 11:59pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Rubric provided on Canvas
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

Communication Methods

Email is the principal form of communication at the university and within this course. Always use your student email (NUmail), rather than a private email address, and check this regularly. As Course Coordinator I will try to respond to your email within three (3) working days. I will not normally respond to emails over the weekends. Please be courteous in your email communication and in the online space.

Canvas is used to distribute course material, announcements and other information. It is also used for online quizzes and to allow students to track their individual progressive assessment results throughout the semester via Grades.

Discussions forums in Canvas can be used to ask questions about minor issues. Students are strongly encouraged to use these to communicate with each other, discuss issues relating to the course, and solve minor problems.

Attendance and Engagement

In addition to face-to-face hours in class, out-of-class study and related work will require an additional commitment of up to 10 hours per week of reading, preparation, and study time over the semester. Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact hours including assessment) per semester per 10 unit course.

To maximise your learning opportunities, you should read all relevant material prior to attending class.

It is strongly recommended that you attend your classes every week. Our data shows that you will get better results if you attend class with your peers. If you do have to miss a class, you should catch up on any missed work by accessing lecture recordings if you are enrolled face-to-face. While online tutorials are recorded, on-campus tutorials are not, so you should view other resources available on your Canvas site and contact your course coordinator if you would like advice on how to best catch up on any material that was missed. **If you are unable to attend classes regularly you should reach out to your course coordinator as soon as possible to discuss ways that you can continue to engage with the learning material.**

A plan of regular revision throughout the semester is also strongly recommended to help you manage your time, consolidate information and retain that knowledge for the duration of the

course and beyond.

Assessment items have been designed to reinforce and revise the course material, and ensure you are up to date with course content. You are required to submit all assessable items by the due dates unless prior arrangements have been made.

Additional Contact Details

If you have any questions about your course, please speak with your course coordinator, lecturer or tutor first. For general enquiries, please contact the Pathways and Academic Learning Support Centre Office or your Student Liaison Officer. Contact details for both the office and Student Liaison Officers can be found [here](#).

Yapug students can also contact your Indigenous Enabling Learning Advisor [Hannah Pipe](#) or your Program Convenor [Dan Collins](#).

Adverse Circumstances

The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for Adverse Circumstances must be lodged via the online Adverse Circumstances system for all individual assessment items worth 30% or greater **by 11:00pm on the day the assessment is due**. For assessment items less than 30%, you will need to contact your Course Coordinator by 11:00pm on the due date of the assessment item.

Before applying you must refer to the [Adverse Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Procedure](#) and the [Adverse Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Policy](#).

Please note that students must submit their adverse circumstances application via the online Adverse Circumstances system by 11:00pm on the due date of the assessment item, even if you are using a [Reasonable Adjustment Plan \(RAP\)](#) as your supporting documentation.

Written Assessment Word Limits

If this course includes written assessments, the word limit listed will include headings, sub-heading, in-text citations, quotes and referencing but does not include the list of references, appendices and footnotes. You will not receive a penalty for exceeding the word limit (there is a tolerance of up to 10%), but any work after the maximum word limit may not be included within the allocation of marks.

Academic Misconduct

All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. Please refer to the [Student Academic Integrity Policy](#).

Oral Interviews (Vivas)

As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the [Oral Examination \(viva\) Procedure](#). In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the [Student Conduct Rule](#).

Workplace Health and Safety Requirements

There are no specific WH&S requirements for this course.

Software

Free Microsoft Office software is available to enrolled students [here](#) and includes 5 TB of free cloud storage with OneDrive.

Timetable

Your timetable for this course is available via the myUni Student Portal and can also be found [here](#).

Course Evaluation

Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.

Important Policy Information

The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the [policies and procedures](#) that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

This course outline was approved by the Director, PALS. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Director approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.

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