ESM 270P: Conservation Planning Practicum
Course Syllabus, Fall 2018

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: Own 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. You can work individually or in groups of 2. If there are multiple people/teams 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
- Press release: 10 pts
- Peer evaluation of presentations & stakeholder comments: 10pts
- Final report: 50 pts

Presentations (40 pts):

- Practice presentation: 10 pts
- Final class presentation: 30 pts

Participation** (25 pts)

*Assignments are due at 5pm on the day listed, unless otherwise noted. Late assignments will lose 1 point if it is not turned in by midnight on the day it is due 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: For projects with two people, please keep in mind that we expect both individuals to participate fully in the analysis and we expect the analysis, in particular, to be more thorough and extensive than for individual projects. The easiest way for us to judge that is for you to have two components of the analysis that build off of each other and earmark which team member is leading which part. This is not the only way. Please come talk to us if you have questions.

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.
Suggested reading: Example conservation plans (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.

Week 2

MO, Oct 8: Data management lecture & discussion; Working lab

WE, Oct 10: Working lab
Assignment 1: Conservation plan proposal; data management in place Wednesday 8pm

Week 3

MO, Oct 15: Working lab

WE, Oct 17: Working lab

Week 4

MO, Oct 22: What makes a compelling and useful report (mini-lecture), working lab

WE, Oct 24: working lab; sign up for 'mid-course progress check-in" time slot
Assignment 2: Data description + metadata Weds @ 5pm

Week 5

MO, Oct 29: mid-course check-in (focus on big picture, not technical stuff); working lab

WE, Oct 31: mid-course check-in; working lab

Week 6

MO, Nov 5: working lab

WE, Nov 7: Press release lecture; working lab
Assignment 3: Report outline + detailed methods weds @ 5pm

Week 7

MO, Nov 12: Veteran's day

WE, Nov 14: What makes a good presentation (lecture); working lab

Week 8

MO, Nov 19: Working lab. (Optional 1hr extended shared learning lab).

WE, Nov 21: working lab (optional)
Sign up for slot to do practice presentation on Monday
Assignment 4: Press release on key project results @5pm Wednesday

Week 9

MO, Nov 26: Practice presentations (groups of 3--1 presenter, 2 reviewers. Rotate)
Assignment 5: Practice presentations

WE, Nov 28: Working lab
Assignment 6: Written comments on two other presenters (provide peer feedback on presentation quality & comments/questions as a stakeholder).

Week 10

MO, Dec 3: working lab (+ 1 presentation)
Assignment 7: Final presentations

WE, Dec 5: final presentations (this class will extend into office hours, or a second class will need to be scheduled)

Due by 5pm Friday, Dec. 7th: *Assignment 8: Final report.*