ESM 270P: Conservation Planning Practicum
Course Syllabus, Fall 2021

Professor: Ashley Larsen (Larsen@bren.ucsb.edu)
Office hours: TBD (remote or hybrid).

Teaching Assistant: Brian Lee (brianlee52@bren.ucsb.edu)
Office hours: TBD (remote or hybrid).

Class: **Tuesday, Thursday 3:30-4:45 (GIS lab)**

The objectives of this course are for you to:
1. Gain practical experience developing a conservation plan
2. Gain experience troubleshooting technical challenges associated with imperfect data
3. Gain experience communicating technical material to broad audiences using diverse approaches

**Course Structure:** This course is designed for hands-on experience. Most classes will be working labs. Students will be working on their course project as the TA and instructor move between groups. 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 troubleshooting an error or dealing with technological difficulties. Use your theoretical and practical knowledge from previous coursework, consult google, stackexchange and the academic literature, and be as thorough as possible. We are here to help you think about your project and how to overcome the roadblocks you will inevitably hit. You will be in the driver’s seat the entire time. Consider this course a dry run on developing a conservation plan.

**Lectures:** Lectures will be rare and short. Feel free to let Ashley or Brian know if you want supplementary readings on a general topic. Lectures will be live at the beginning of the class.

**Lab:** This is a lab course. You are encouraged to use your GP project as the basis for your conservation plan, if possible. You can work individually or in groups of up to 3. 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 not be impossible. Keep in mind you must develop a conservation plan whether or not that aligns with the objective of your GP.

**Grading (165 pts total):**

**Written assignments** (100 pts):
- Updated 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 8pm 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. We will make exceptions in rare and extenuating circumstances, but will do our utmost to be fair to the entire class.

**Participation points** are for being engaged, self-motivated, participating in the class Slack, and contributing equally to team deliverables (if applicable). The instructor & TA will be jumping around helping troubleshoot barriers. There are two of us and class is short so we expect that you’ve tried to sniff out a solution on the web before asking us. Participation will be used to adjust final grades up or down. Due to covid, attendance is not required but we expect all healthy students to be in class on time for the duration. As noted in Note 1, teams are required to submit a review of each other by the end of the quarter, which will factor into participation. Failure to submit a review will result in reduced participation points.

COVID: Please do not come to class if you are feeling ill! We will do our best to accommodate students who have to miss class due to covid. Office hours will be hybrid or remote by design to facilitate access to the instructors. We ask students, including those in teams, to spread out, avoid huddling together, wear masks and sanitize hands before and after class. Please maintain a google doc work diary to keep track of progress and to evidence effort in the case of absences.

Please email the instructor prior to class ([Larsen@bren.ucsb.edu](mailto:Larsen@bren.ucsb.edu)) in the case of illness or family emergency. In the case of a unique career opportunity (e.g. interview, etc), please email the instructor as early as possible in the quarter to arrange make-up work.

**Note 1: For team projects**, we expect all individuals to participate fully in the analysis and we expect the analysis, in particular, to be more thorough and extensive than for individual projects. Where an individual project might end at designing a reserve network, a 2 person team project might then project how effective the network would be under climate change scenarios and a 3 person project might additionally backcast. Where an individual project may make more assumptions and back of the envelope calculations, a team would sleuth out the parameters in the scientific literature. Examples of A-level individual and team projects are on gauchospace.

**Teams will be required to provide a work plan describing who is leading and contributing to which analyses. Teams will be also required to submit a review of each other in week 10, which will factor into participation grades. Failure to submit a review by December 3 will result in a reduced participation grade.**
Note 2: Students are expected to conduct themselves with exceptional academic integrity. We expect you to be honest with us and each other, describe your methods and results with accuracy, and document all of your literature sources. Academic integrity is a baseline requirement to succeed in 270p.

Note 3: Assignments are back-loaded to the end of the quarter. Please plan ahead!

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<th>Week 0</th>
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<tr>
<td>TH, Sept 23: Class overview, summer recap, overview of the conservation planning process.</td>
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<td><strong>Suggested reading:</strong> Example conservation plans (gauchospace).</td>
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<th>Week 1</th>
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<td>TU, Sept 28: CP tools recap; working lab</td>
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<td>TH, Sept 30: Data management lecture &amp; discussion; Working lab</td>
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<th>Week 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>TU, Oct 5: Working lab</td>
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<td><strong>Assignment 1:</strong> Updated conservation plan proposal; data management in place Tuesday</td>
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<td>TH, Oct 7: Working lab</td>
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<th>Week 3</th>
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<td>TU, Oct 12: Working lab</td>
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<td>TH, Oct 14: What makes a compelling and useful report (mini-lecture), working lab</td>
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<td><strong>Assignment 2:</strong> Data description + metadata Thurs @ 8pm</td>
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<th>Week 4</th>
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<td>TU, Oct 19: working lab; sign up for ‘mid-course progress check-in” time slot</td>
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<td>TH, Oct 21: mid-course check-in (focus on big picture, not technical stuff); working lab</td>
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| Week 5                                                                                     |

TU, Oct 26: mid-course check-in; working lab

TH, Oct 28: working lab

**Week 6**

TU, Nov 2: Working lab

*Assignment 3:* Report outline + detailed methods due Tues @ 8pm

TH, Nov 4: How to write a press release (lecture); working lab

**Week 7**

TU, Nov 9: What makes a good presentation (lecture); Working lab.

*Sign up for practice presentation slot*

TH, Nov 11: No class (Veteran’s Day)

*Assignment 4:* Press release Friday @ 8pm

**Week 8**

TU, Nov 16: Working lab

TH, Nov 18: Practice presentations

*Assignment 5:* Practice presentations (in class)

**Week 9**

TU, Nov 23: Working lab

*Assignment 6:* Written comments on two other presenters (provide peer feedback on presentation quality & comments/questions as a stakeholder).

*Sign up for final presentation slot*

TH, Nov. 25: No class (Thanksgiving)

**Week 10**

*Assignment 7:* Final presentations (in class)

TU, Nov 30: final presentations day 1
Assignment 8: Final report due by 8pm Friday, Dec. 3rd
TEAMS: submit review of partner(s)!
(failure to do so will result in reduced participation grade)