ESM 270P: Conservation Planning Practicum
Course Syllabus, Fall 2024

Professor: Ashley Larsen (larsen@bren.ucsb.edu)
TA: James Cunningham (jlcunningham@ucsb.edu)
Office hours: Ashley: 3-3:30 Tu/Thu; James: TBD .
Dedicated Troubleshooting Time (via google doc): Monday, Wednesday, Friday TBD. Please add questions at least 30m before window.
Contact: Post troubleshooting questions to the Q&A google doc and call the TA out. For personal matters, send emails.

Class: **Tu/Thu 3:30-4:45pm (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 us 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 can use your GP project as the basis for your conservation plan, if relevant, though are welcome to choose a different topic related to your internship or other experience. **You can work individually or in pairs. Groups of 3 will be considered with well-defined roles for each member**. If there are multiple teams from a single GP, you will need to coordinate so you do separate but complementary projects. **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; see "Assignment Instructions"):
- Annotated Bibliography & updated proposal: 10 pts
- Data description and meta-data: 10 pts
- Report outline + detailed methods: 10 pts
- Peer evaluation of presentations & stakeholder comments: 10pts

Peer review of draft report: 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 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, up to a maximum of 50% of the assignment value (ie it is always better late than never). We will make exceptions in rare and extenuating circumstances, but will do our utmost to be fair to the entire class. Regrade requests will entail a regrade of the entire assignment by either the TA or professor.

****Participation points** are for being engaged, self-motivated, participating in the class Q&A, and contributing equally to team deliverables (if applicable). Additional details:
a) *Engaged & self-motivated:* We expect that you've tried to sniff out a solution on the web before asking us. Please have the things you've tried organized so we can better aid troubleshooting.
b) *Q&A*: **Please post questions to the google doc rather than emailing.** Illustrate you've tried to troubleshoot (including links, errors etc). Answer your classmates' questions if you can!
c) *Attendance*: We expect all healthy students to be in class on time for the duration of class and **working exclusively on CP without other distractions**.
d) *Teams:* Teams are required to keep a log and submit a review of each other by the end of the quarter, which will factor into participation. Failure to keep a log or submit a teammate review will result in reduced participation points.

Illness: 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 or the flu etc via hybrid or remote office hours, as needed. **Please wear a mask if you're unsure or have a minor cold.** Fall is intense and getting your CP or GP teammates sick (or anyone else) is a loss for all.

Please email the instructor **prior to class** (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 group of 3 may consider additional targets, analyses and/or robustness test. 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 will be posted on canvas. **Teams will be required to provide a work plan describing who is leading and contributing to which analyses and share a log of activities. 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 the last day of class 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!

Week 0

TH, Sept 26: Class overview, working lab.

Suggested reading: Example conservation plans (canvas).

Week 1

TU, Oct 1: working lab

TH, Oct 3: working lab

Week 2

TU, Oct 8: Data management lecture & discussion; Working lab
Assignment 1: Annotated bibliography & updated proposal due Tues @ 8pm; data management in place Tuesday

TH, Oct 10: Working lab

Week 3

TU, Oct 15: Working lab.

TH, Oct 17: What makes a compelling and useful report (mini-lecture), working lab
Assignment 2: Data description + metadata Thurs @ 8pm

Week 4

TU, Oct 22: working lab;

TH, Oct 24: working lab

Week 5

TU, Oct 29: working lab; sign up for 'mid-course progress check-in" time slot

TH, Oct 31:mid-course check-in (focus on big picture, not technical stuff); working lab

Week 6

TU, Nov 5: Mid-course check-in
Assignment 3: Report outline + detailed methods due Tues@ 8pm

TH, Nov 7: What makes a good presentation (lecture); Working lab.
Sign up for practice presentation slot

Week 7

TU, Nov 12: How to peer review (lecture); working lab

TH, Nov 14: Working lab

Week 8

TU, Nov 19: Practice Presentations (in class)
Assignment 4: Practice Presentations (no need to submit slides)
Assignment 5: Written comments on two other presenters (provide peer feedback on presentation quality & comments/questions as a stakeholder).

TH, Nov 21: Working lab

Week 9

TU, Nov 28: Working lab
Assignment 6: Draft paper due to peer reviewers (email, cc instructors); Peer review due 12/1 @ 8pm (email to reviewee & upload to canvas).
Sign up for final presentation slot

TH, Nov. 28: [THANKSGIVING]

Week 10

TU, Dec 3: final presentations (day 1)
Assignment 7: Final presentations (in class)

TH, Dec 5: final presentations (day 2)
Assignment 7: Final presentations (in class)

Assignment 8: **Final report due by 8pm Friday, Dec. 6th**
TEAMS: submit review of partner(s)!