

ESM 296 Conservation Results: How to Make Them Happen
Course Syllabus
Winter 2026

Professor Will Shafroth

Email: will@willshafroth.com

Office Hours: Office Bren 3512

January 8, 9, 13, 15 and 16 from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Class Details

January 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 14 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. (M, T, W)

Classroom Bren 1510

Course Objectives

This seminar will actively engage students in understanding how to accomplish conservation outcomes through:

- 1) Governmental processes (passing legislation/ballot measures, enacting government policy decisions, and creating protected areas),
- 2) Nonprofit organization initiatives (conserving landscapes), and
- 3) Multi-party negotiations.

The course will include guest lecturers in every class who have expertise and experience in conservation, public policy, politics, resource management, and natural resources law to share practical experiences and lessons learned, use case studies and engage the students in role-playing to better understand the different positions involved in achieving conservation results.

Objectives include:

- 1) Help students to understand the various ways to create durable solutions for conservation and natural resource management.
- 2) Learn how to navigate critical public processes.
- 3) Gain valuable insights into understanding the perspectives of many different players.
- 4) Understand how to develop communications and public engagement strategies in service of conservation outcomes.
- 5) Appreciate the context of diversity, equity, inclusion and justice in the history of conservation in the U.S. and how to engage diverse constituencies in achieving conservation results.

Students will be expected to actively engage in the class discussions and role-playing exercises and provide reflections on key insights after every class.

Assignments & Grading

The course is either for a grade or pass/fail. Students are expected to attend every class and participate in both the class discussions and the exercises. Grades will be determined by the following:

- Class attendance (30%)
- Class participation (30%)
- Written reflections for each class (250-500 words) after each of the first 5 classes (25%)
These are due by 9 a.m. of the morning of the next class. These assignments are meant to have the students reflect on insights they gained from the class.
- Final written reflections (15%). This paper of 500-1000 words due by November 17 at 3 p.m. This assignment will require the students to consider learnings from all of the classes.
- Additional information about the written reflections will be discussed at the end of the first class – when students will be able to ask any clarifying questions they may have.