

Date: February 2006

Course Name: Introduction to Environmental Conservation
Course Prefix and Number: CON 100
Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 3 credit hours - 3 contact hours

Catalog description:

This course focuses on environmental conservation and outdoor recreation, controversial issues, and current topics. Throughout the semester improvement in critical thinking, writing, and oral communication skills are emphasized.

II. Course Outcomes and Objectives

Learning Outcomes:

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To present an overview of current environmental conservation issues.
2. To introduce students to the fields of environmental conservation and outdoor recreation.
3. To introduce strategies for environmental problem solving.
4. To introduce students to the methods used to identify natural resources.
5. To engage in frank discussions on controversial and current conservation-recreation topics.

Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum:

This course is a requirement for all Environmental Conservation students, in all degree programs and certificates. The course may also be used as a general elective for interested students, with permission from Conservation faculty.

College Competencies Addressed by the Course:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> writing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethics and values
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> oral communication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> citizenship
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> reading	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> global concerns
<input type="checkbox"/> mathematics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> information resources
<input type="checkbox"/> problem solving	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> professional competency
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> computer literacy	

III. Methods of Instruction

Types of Course Materials:

Students are required to read *A Sand County Almanac* for the course. In addition, students should read the *New York State Conservationist* magazine.

Methods of Instruction:

This is a lecture based course however a heavy emphasis is put on class discussion and participation. Appropriate films may also be incorporated.

Assessment measures:

Each student's understanding of the course material will be assessed by their participation in class discussions, their performance on and completion of class assignments and a research paper, a midterm and final exam.

Methods of Evaluation:

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

Library Scavenger Hunt	-	50 points
Journal Article	-	50 points
Resume	-	50 points
Paper Topics	-	50 points
Midterm Exam	-	100 points
Final Exam	-	200 points
Research Paper	-	<u>150 points</u>
		650 points

FINAL GRADE DETERMINATION:

A	-	585-650 points	D	-	390-454 points
B	-	520-584 points	F	-	389 and below
C	-	455-519 points			

- Class participation and attendance can increase or decrease your grade.

IV. General Outline of Topics Covered

COURSE TOPICS:

- Course introduction
- Weekly introduction to common species of New York
- Introduction to taxonomic keys and field guides
- Conservation research paper
- Field trip to Muller Conservation Field Station
- Farmland to Forest
- The role of wildlife diseases in wildlife management
- A Sand County Almanac: discussion and readings from the book and the life of Aldo Leopold
- Natural History of the Whitetail Deer
- Class debate: conflict between hunters and non-hunters
- Animal Behavior
- Endangered, introduced, and naturally returning species - timber wolf, moose, and coyote
- Birds of Prey
- Environmental conservation law and ethics
- Program requirements - employment and transfer to 4-year colleges
- Insects, reptiles and amphibians
- Invasive species