

NR 5884 Adaptive Management
Offered: Summer-I (12 week) Semester

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REQUIRED TEXT: *Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation, Version 3.0*
([free pdf download](#))

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Human activities are having a cumulative effect on the natural systems upon which life depends. Future land and ocean management decisions will occur in the face of unprecedented change in environmental conditions. More integration of the traditional natural resources fields will be required to develop innovative approaches to sustainable resource development. Conservation Ecology provides insights to the many benefits and services that nature offers and explores strategies for management options to sustain ecological integrity and the production of goods and services. It is an interdisciplinary approach to harmonizing the interactions between people and nature at ecosystem scales. The course is designed to explore the knowledge, theories, and research related to the total environment in which we practice conservation. Emphasis will be on the synthesis and integration of knowledge, skills and abilities that are needed as conservation issues become more complex. A problem-based learning format will require students to actively participate in their own learning by researching and analyzing real-life problems to arrive at “best” solutions. The instructor serves as a cognitive coach by modeling inquiry strategies and guiding students in exploring relevant contact.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Students will submit a written adaptive management plan and give weekly presentations/results for their peers, as well as on the final class day. While these components of the course are heavily weighted, student participation in class discussions and within group work sessions also comprises a large portion of individual grades.

Grades will be computed on the following basis:

- Student participation – 20%
- Presentations/results – 40%
- Adaptive management plan – 40%

SCHEDULE:

The planning cycle is best learned through repeated efforts so the course provides students with three opportunities: 1) a practice case study; 2) a conservation client project; and 3) a final exam. Students will work in groups during the case study portion of the course, using an online tutorial provided by The Nature Conservancy. For the Conservation Client Project each group will work on a real-world conservation project using the planning process learned in the first six weeks of the course.

Week 1 – 6 Case Studies

Week 1 Introduction, Project Team, Scope and Vision

Week 2 – Conservation Targets and Viability Assessments

Week 3 – Rating Critical Threats and Situation Analysis (Conceptual Models)

Week 4 – Goals and Strategies

Week 5 – Assumptions, Results Chains, and Objectives

Week 6 – Actions and Monitoring

Week 7 – 12 Conservation Client Project

Week 7 – Intro, Team, Scope and Vision

Week 8 – Targets and Viability Assessment

Week 9 – Threat Rating and Situation Analysis (Conceptual Models)

Week 10 – Goals and Strategies

Week 11 – Assumptions, Result Chains, and Objectives

Week 12 – Actions and Monitoring