

NR 5884 TS: Biodiversity Stewardship
Offered: Summer I (12-week)

INSTRUCTOR: Michael Ruggiero, Ph.D., rmich50@vt.edu

REQUIRED TEXT: *Biodiversity Monitoring and Conservation: Bridging the Gap Between Global Commitment and Local Action*, Collen, et al., Editors (ISBN: 978-1-444-33292-6)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Biodiversity (biological diversity) and its components have been recognized by most countries of the world as important national and global resources worthy of legal protection. They are so important that, for more than two decades, nations have cooperated through international conventions to protect biological diversity, threatened and endangered species, and wetlands. Upon successful completion of the course, the student will have a basic understanding of the fundamental goals of the three major UN biodiversity-related conventions (CBD, Ramsar, and CITES); knowledge of the available and proposed tools and protocols for monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of each convention; and a critical evaluation of how each convention has performed in achieving its biodiversity goals, faced or overcome obstacles to achievement, or used adaptive management principles to make progress.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Grades will be computed on the following basis:

Forum participation	20%
Short papers (5)	50%
Final exam	30%