Nova Southeastern University
Oceanographic Center
Course Syllabus (Winter II - 4 Weeks)
Last Date Revised: 18 February 2015

I. COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE:
Conservation Behavior and Marine Mammals
Term: Winter II 2015 (30 March – 26 April 2015)
Course Numbers:
- CZMT 0995 DE1 (CRN 31222)
- MAMC 4990 DE2 (CRN 31223)
- OCMB 0995 DE2 (CRN 31221)
Building & Room: Online via Blackboard

II. INSTRUCTOR:
Caryn Self-Sullivan, Ph.D.
Phone: 540.287.8207
Email: cs1733@nova.edu
Office: 2010 Beach Avenue, Colonial Beach VA 22443
Office Hours: By Appointment

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION:
An Introduction to Conservation Behavior, with a focus on Marine Mammals: a 3-credit hour reading and writing intensive course. When offered during the OC’s 4-week short-term, the criteria for the course do not change…it’s still a 3-credit hour reading and writing intensive course. You are encouraged to adjust your schedule and prepare yourself accordingly because you will be cramming a 12-week course into just 4 weeks time!

Conservation behavior is the application of animal behavior knowledge to solving wildlife conservation problems. This course introduces graduate level students to the emerging discipline of Conservation Behavior and the importance of understanding animal behavior when developing strategies for Marine Mammal Conservation. Although the focus is on marine mammals, the same concepts apply to all marine wildlife, including commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, and endangered species.

Learning activities include extensive library research, reading and analyses of the text and relevant journal articles, peer review, and development of a Conservation Behavior Species Brief Review focused on a marine mammal species of the student's choice. Prerequisites: an undergraduate or graduate level course in psychology or animal behavior is recommended.
IV. LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the conclusion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Define and describe Conservation Behavior and its importance to marine mammal conservation strategies.

2. Describe Tinbergen’s 4 Perspectives for the study of animal behavior, identify why each perspective is important to marine mammal conservation strategies in general, and in particular to your focus species/genus/family.

3. Research and apply knowledge of specific behaviors (habitat selection, foraging behavior, reproductive behavior, anti-predator behavior, acoustic behavior, etc.) to a species-specific conservation strategy.

4. Exemplify the importance of behavioral knowledge in setting up Marine Protected Areas in general, and in particular for your focus species/genus/family.

5. Conduct Peer Reviews and use feedback from Peer Reviews to improve a scientific manuscript.

V. TEXTS AND READING MATERIALS:


Required: Additional Peer Reviewed Publications: Students will do a literature search to find, read, and apply knowledge of animal behavior in a single taxon (family/genus/species as appropriate) and present their results to the class along with PDF copies of each article used.

- Required: Society for Marine Mammalogy and Marine Mammal Science Online Website (you do not need to be a member to access these pages): Instructions for Authors and Species List
  - https://www.marinemammalscience.org/journal/guide-for-authors/
  - https://www.marinemammalscience.org/species-information/list-of-marine-mammal-species-subspecies/


VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES:

INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACH

This is a self-driven, peer supported, graduate level course. Weekly assignments will be posted online via Blackboard. All course related messages should be sent via Blackboard Course Messages. I will be checking Blackboard ~0600 (6am) on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. I am also available by phone or text message (540-287-8207) and email (cs1733@nova.edu) Monday through Friday from 0900-1700 for one-on-one assistance.
Please note that pursuant to Nova Southeastern University policy, I will only respond to email coming from your NSU email account to my NSU email account: cs1733@nova.edu. Please ensure that you have my NSU email address as the default in your address book!

If a conflict should arise, please call or text me via telephone (540-287-8207) me as soon as possible. I am ready, willing, and able to negotiate a mutually agreeable resolution to almost any problem.

ATTENDANCE – LIVE DISCUSSIONS

All individual and group meetings will be held via Blackboard’s Virtual Classroom. **Use the Practice Session** I’ve set up within the course to ensure that your computer will connect prior to the Live Discussion each week! If have any issues (e.g., especially if you use a MAC), please contact the Computing Help Desk:

Contact Help Desk: Hours of Operation: 24 hours a day 7 days a week
(954) 262-HELP (4357) or Toll Free at 1-800-541-6682, ext. 24357
Email: help@nova.edu Online at http://www.nova.edu/help/

Students are expected to log in to the course in Blackboard at least **3 times a week** (every other day is recommended) to check messages AND participate in the Discussion Forums & Assignments.

A **one-hour live discussion session will be recorded weekly on Tuesdays at 6:00 PM – day and time to be confirmed.** Successful live discussions are dependent on student participation. Students are encouraged and rewarded for attending and participating in these live sessions. Up to 100 extra-credit points are available for participation in the live discussion. For full points, you should ask at least two (2) questions or contribute two (2) examples related to the discussion topic during the discussion.

If you are unable to attend in person due to conflicts with work or other classes, you may still participate via the recorded session for extra credit points. Recordings will be available until the end of the term, **BUT the window of opportunity to earn extra credit expires 7 days after each Live Discussion.** In other words, you must sent my your request by the following Monday at midnight. You CANNOT wait until the end of the term and then go back and watch all the recordings and request extra credit! If you cannot join the Live Discussion LIVE, and still want to earn the extra-credit, you must:

1. View the Live Discussion within 6 days of the live event.
2. Write a short essay that recaps the key points and examples discussed (500-750 words).
3. Submit your essay to me via email within 6 days of the live event (by the following Monday at midnight). In the body of your email, you must ask two (2) new questions or give two (2) new examples related to the live discussion.

In general, all **Assignments** are posted on Monday and due by midnight the following Sunday. Students are required to **POST each week AND REVIEW at least 2 classmates’ posts each week** using the **Discussion Forum**. All other Assignments must be submitted by the Due Date via the Assignments link in the left-hand column on our Blackboard Course.
ACADEMIC HONESTY

In order to ensure the highest standards of academic honesty and ethical behavior, the NSU policies on cheating and plagiarism will be strictly enforced. See the NSU Student Handbook for more information at http://www.nova.edu/cwis/studentaffairs/forms/ustudenthandbook.pdf. Instructors are empowered by the policy to penalize a student suspected of academic dishonesty, plagiarism, or otherwise misrepresenting work. I will report any student in violation of the NSU Academic Honesty Policies to the Dean of the OC.

As stated below, the Certification of Authorship will be required with the final submission of any paper. Nova Southeastern University has contracted with turnitin.com to provide plagiarism detection services, and I will submit final documents to this service for review.

Certificate of Authorship: I certify that I am the author of this work and that any assistance I received in its preparation is fully acknowledged and disclosed in the paper (including acknowledgement of peer reviewers). I have cited any sources from which I used data, ideas or words, either quoted directly or paraphrased. I also certify that this work was prepared by me specifically for this course.

Student's signature: __________________________
_________________________________

VII. GRADING CRITERIA – See Detailed Instructions & Rubrics in Blackboard:

1. Discussion Forums & Reading Analyses 300 points (D1-D3): Student must participate in the Discussion Forum at least 4 times per week for full points.
   - Weeks 1-3 (D1-D3): Demonstrate your ability to synthesize concepts from your text with published, peer reviewed research papers on your chosen focal species. During Weeks 1-3, your post should synthesize readings in the 4 Chapters from the Conservation Behavior text with at least 4 related peer reviewed articles of your choice – PDF copies of these papers must be attached to your initial posting. These Discussions extremely important! They are designed to help keep you on track as you develop your final paper.
   - Your initial post each week should be ~3000 words (~750 words synthesizing each chapter to a related peer reviewed journal paper).
   - You should enter into a discussion with at least two other students via the Discussion Forum each week by responding to their initial posting. Your response should question and challenge your peer’s initial posting. Your reviews should be ~500 words each and should challenge your peer to delve deeper into the subject by answering questions raised in your review.
   - Use the Discussion Forum to earn up to 100 points each week for your initial posting (40 points), reviewing at least two other students’ postings (40 points—20 points each), and responding to reviews of your original post (20 points—10 points each). See detailed instructions in Blackboard.

2. Peer Review of CBSBR 300 points (R1-R2). You will be randomly assigned to conduct peer reviews on two (2) Conservation Behavior Species Brief Reviews at each stage of development. Your two Peer Reviews must be completed within one week of assignment. You may earn up to 75 points for each peer review completed for a
maximum of 300 points. Be sure to read the materials on how to conduct a peer review prior to submitting your first review!

   - A1: 2 page Proposal + Literature Search Results List (100 points) submitted via the Assignment Link
   - A2: 1st Draft (100 points) submitted via the Assignment Link
   - A3: 15-Minute Power Point Presentation (100 points) with Voice-Over Recording submitted via the Assignment Link
   - A4: Final Paper (100 points) submitted via the Assignment Link

4. Final Exam – via the Exam Link (Proctored) 100 Points

5. Course Reflection (D4) – via the Discussion Forum 100 Points

A major component of your grade is the CONSERVATION BEHAVIOR SPECIES BRIEF REVIEW PAPER, which will be worth 400 points. You may select any marine mammal species, but I caution you to do a literature search to determine how much is known about the BEHAVIOR of your species prior to submitting our proposal and literature search, which is due at the end of Week 4. All writings should be formatted to match the template provided by instructor and in the style of Marine Mammal Science (citations, abbreviations, etc.). Instructions for MMS authors can be found here:

https://www.marinemammalscience.org/journal/guide-for-authors/

Your peers will provide feedback and suggestions at each phase of the preparation of you paper. See #2 Peer Review, above.

Thus, there are a total of 1200 points available for this course + up to 100 Extra Credit Points (for participating in Weekly Live Discussions). A standard grading scale will be used, with 90-100% earning an A, 80-89% earning a B, 70-79% earning a C, 60-69% earning a D, and below 60% earning an F in the course.

Draft Schedule – may be modified by instructor at her discretion as the term progresses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Readings in Blumstein &amp; Fernandez-Juricic</th>
<th>PPT &amp; Live Discussion</th>
<th>Discussion Forums &amp; PDF Readings</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to Conservation Behavior, Select your Focal Species, Chapters 1-4</td>
<td>Conservation Behavior</td>
<td>D1 + 4 PDFs</td>
<td>A1: CBSBR Proposal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Week 1 Assignments Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Details</th>
<th>Chapters</th>
<th>Weekly Activity</th>
<th>PDFs</th>
<th>Resource</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Week 2 Assignments Details

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<tr>
<th>Assignment Details</th>
<th>Chapters</th>
<th>Weekly Activity</th>
<th>PDFs</th>
<th>Resource</th>
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</thead>
</table>

### Week 3 Assignments Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weekly Activity</th>
<th>PDFs</th>
<th>Resource</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 Wrapping Up!</td>
<td>Final Paper, Final Exam (Proctored), Course Reflection</td>
<td>D4 Course Reflection (post only, no feedback required)</td>
<td>A4: CB Species Review Final Paper</td>
</tr>
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### Week 4 Assignments Details

### Tips for Success

- Start working early in the week. Conduct your literature search ahead of time. Remember that nothing done at the last minute is of high academic quality. And, remember that it’s virtually impossible to earn full Discussion Forum points if you wait until the weekend to post!

- Read text & related journal articles BEFORE beginning your Assignments & Discussions.

- **View Rubric** before starting your Assignments & Discussions. Go to My Grades to View Rubrics anytime. There is also a View Rubric link in each Assignment and under Grading Information in each Discussion Forum.
VIII: UNIVERSITY-WIDE POLICY STATEMENTS

All questions regarding logistics, departmental support, or university policy should be directed to the OC’s academic support staff:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Support</th>
<th>Student Support</th>
<th>Director of Academic Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Bofto</td>
<td>Richard Hartland</td>
<td>Melissa L. Dore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(954) 262-3614</td>
<td>(954) 262-3697</td>
<td>954-262-3610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800-541-6682, ext. 23614</td>
<td>800-541-6682, ext. 23697</td>
<td><a href="mailto:missy@nova.edu">missy@nova.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:imcs@nova.edu">imcs@nova.edu</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:oconline@nova.edu">oconline@nova.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
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1. **Academic Misconduct:** Academic misconduct appears in a variety of forms (including plagiarism). It is a violation of NSU academic policy and may be punished in a variety of ways, from failing the assignment and/or the entire course to academic probation, suspension or expulsion. If you have questions about what constitutes academic misconduct before handing in an assignment, see your instructor or the NSU Student Handbook at [http://www.nova.edu/cwis/studentaffairs/forms/ustudenthandbook.pdf](http://www.nova.edu/cwis/studentaffairs/forms/ustudenthandbook.pdf).

2. **ADA Policy:** Nova Southeastern University provides accommodations for students with documented disabilities. If you have a disability for which you believe you require accommodation, please contact Academic Services ([http://www.nova.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.nova.edu/disabilityservices/), 954-262-7189).

3. **Last Day to Withdraw:** It is your responsibility to formally withdraw from this course by completing the appropriate forms. A request for tuition refund must be made in writing at the time of withdrawal. Refunds will be made solely at the option of the university and will be based on the legitimacy of the reason for withdrawal. Should you fail to withdraw from this course by the deadline and then earn a grade below your expectations, the grade CANNOT be changed to a W by the instructor.

4. **Email Policy:** All email communications between students and faculty must be conducted via NSU email accounts ([http://www.nova.edu/common-lib/policies/emailcomm.policy.html](http://www.nova.edu/common-lib/policies/emailcomm.policy.html)). This requirement will assist NSU in communicating more effectively and protecting your privacy. Emails sent to faculty from non-NSU accounts will be returned to the sender with instructions to resend the communication from your NSU account. To set up an NSU email account or to get help with an existing account, go to [https://www.nova.edu/sbin/account_request](https://www.nova.edu/sbin/account_request). Also, the computer help desk is available to assist you with questions regarding your NSU email account. It can be reached at 954-262-HELP (4357).

5. **Student Course Evaluations:** Student comment and feedback evaluating each college class is an important tool to evaluate program effectiveness. Participation in this process is a responsibility of each student.