

OCES 4301 Environmental Conservation (3-credit)

Learning Outcomes

After taking this course, the students are expected to be able to:

- Recognize the importance of biodiversity to the functioning of our biosphere,
- Understand the current and emerging threats to biodiversity,
- Understand and evaluate the state-of-the-art conservation strategies in different parts of the world,
- Interpret the scientific basis of various conservation policies and projects, and critically evaluate their efficacy,
- Integrate learnt knowledge and effectively communicate related knowledge in written format,
- Appreciate the importance of harmony between humans and nature.

Course Coordinators and Instructors

- Dr Cynthia YAU, Room 5436 (L25/26), cynthiastyau@ust.hk
- Dr Cindy LAM, Room 5540 (L25/26), envscindy@ust.hk

Format (*the schedule provided is provisional subject to change*)

- Lectures
- In-class discussions
- Online study
- Field trips

Course Assessment

- Final Examination (40%)
- Essay writing (20%)
- Participation (report of guest lectures and field trips) (40%)

Major Reference

Conservation Biology for All, edited by Navjot S. Sodhi and Paul R. Ehrlich

(*Conservation Biology for All* has been generously made available in its entirety here:

<http://www.conbio.org/publications/free-textbook>)

Week	Topic & Format	Assessment	Instructor
1	Course Introduction	Lecture	Yau & Lam
	Guest Lecture (I): Marine Conservation in HK	Guest lecture	Dr. James Xie (AFCD)
2	Habitat Destruction and Fragmentation - Cause of deforestation: The story of soy - Role of pasture and soybean in deforestation of the Brazilian Amazon - Wildlife corridor in Canada (video)	Lecture	Lam
	In-class Discussion: Fragmentation Leads to Species Loss?	Participation	Lam
3	Species Invasion - Management of an invasive apple snail - Invasive Pacific Oysters in Europe (video)	Lecture	Lam
	In-class Discussion: Management of Species Invasion	Participation	Lam
4	Mercy Release - Mercy release in Hong Kong (article & video) - Buddhist harm ecosystem?	Lecture	Lam
	In-class Discussion: Is Mercy Release Wildlife Conservation?	Participation	Lam
5	Mangrove Conservation	Lecture	Yau
	Guest Lecture (II): Herpetofauna of Hong Kong and their conservation	Guest lecture	Prof. Yik Hei Sung (Lingnan U)
6	Mudflat Conservation	Lecture	Lam
	Protected Areas I	Lecture	Yau
	<i>Field Trip I – Ting Kok</i>	Field Trip	Yau & Lam
7	<i>No class</i>		
	Protected Areas II & In-class Discussion	Lecture & Participation	Yau
8	Guest Lecture (III): Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)	Guest Lecture	Dr. Edward Lau (AFCD)
	Overexploitation	Lecture	Yau
9	Guest Lecture (IV): Conservation of Sha Lo Tung	Guest Lecture	Dr. Elaine Yuen (Green Power)
	<i>Midterm break</i>		
	<i>Public holiday</i>		
	Mitigation and Restoration Ecology	Lecture	Yau
	<i>Field Trip II – Sha Lo Tung</i>	Field Trip	Yau & Lam
10	<i>No class</i>		
	Guest Lecture (V): Conservation of Chinese White Dolphin	Guest Lecture	Dr. Stephen Chan
11	Roles of Zoos and Aquariums	Lecture	Yau
	<i>No class</i>		
	<i>Field Trip III – HK Zoological and Botanical Garden</i>	Field Trip	Yau & Lam
12	Eco-shorelines	Lecture	Yau & Lam
	Guest Lecture (VI): Oyster reef conservation	Guest Lecture	Ms. Marine Thomas (TNC HK)
13	Course review	Lecture	Yau & Lam
	<i>No class</i>		
	<i>Field Trip IV – Pak Nai</i>	Field Trip	Yau & Lam