

ENST 500: Interdisciplinary Approaches to

Fall 2021, Tues 3:30-6:20 pm

Section: 33069: 4 units

Location: CPA 157

Instructor: Dr. David Ginsburg, Professor (Teaching), ENST

Preferred Pronouns: he/him

Office: CAS 116

Office hours by appointment: <https://calendly.com/ginsbuda>

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Course Description

This course will help students to develop advanced skills to address complex environmental issues that society faces today. Different approaches for studying environmental processes and resources will be examined. *Recommended Preparation:* Course is geared towards students enrolled in their first semester of the ENST Masters Degree Program.

Classroom ground rules

- Share responsibility for including all voices in a conversation
- Listen respectfully to your classmate's and your instructor's viewpoints
- Be open to changing your perspectives based on what you learn from others
- Understand that we are bound to make mistakes in this space
- Understand that your words have effects on others
- Take group work during class and outside of lecture seriously
- Understand that your classmates may have different experiences from your own
- Make an effort to get to know your classmates
- Understand there are different approaches to solving problems

Course learning objectives

Student learning objectives are aligned with those of the ENST Program (see [link](#)) in which students will:

- Recognize relationships between physical and human interactions in the environment
- Evaluate scientific data in support of a particular topic or policy initiative
- Understand and assess scholarly articles related to course topics
- Formulate an integrated and interdisciplinary response to environmental problems by completing a written report and group presentation on a specific conservation management and policy issue

Return to in-person instruction

All members of the USC community (faculty, students, staff) must comply with Trojan Check, which includes fulfilling the university's vaccination policy, as well as completion of the university's recently relaunched Hygiene Health and Safety Training in order to access campus. As such, masks must be worn at all times (as per USC policy) inside (e.g., classrooms, offices, etc.). **Students are expected to comply with all aspects of USC's COVID-19 policy.** Failure to do so may result in removal from the class and referral to Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards.

Course Overview

This course will use Blackboard for communication, information and turning in assignments. Lecture slides will be made available after the lecture is given. Additional readings may be assigned periodically

throughout the semester, and these will be announced in class, posted on Blackboard and via email messages sent to the class. This is a 4-unit, graduate level course, which requires in-depth reading and critical analysis outside of lecture.

Required Readings and Supplementary Materials

- Sodhi, N.S. and Ehrlich, P.R. (2011) Conservation Biology for All, 2nd Edition, 358 pp., Oxford University Press. **Available online for free.** Referred to below as CBA. <https://conbio.org/publications/free-textbook/>
- Day, R.A. (and B. Gastel). 4th through 8th Editions are fine. Greenwood Publishing. See USC Libraries.
- Additional readings will be assigned throughout the semester and will be available on Blackboard

Description and Assessment of Assignments

You will be graded on the basis of your performance on exams, written assignments, class activities and participation (e.g., study guide discussions, Blackboard assignments, etc.). Exam questions will be drawn from course readings, lecture materials and any related assignments, activities and discussions.

If there is a scheduling conflict with an exam, assignment or activity you must notify me via email at least two-weeks in advance to see if alternative arrangements can be made. **Otherwise, no make-up exams will be allowed.** If a student misses an exam, quiz, activity, etc., they will receive a zero for that assignment. Exams will be administered via Blackboard (specific details will be released closer to the date on the course schedule). During exams, students are NOT allowed to work as a group, use notes, books, mobile devices, etc. Failure to comply with exam policies will result in a zero on that specific exam.

Late assignments will have 15% deducted each 24 hours, with the first 24 hour deduction starting 30 min after the deadline. Regarding missed class activities: If you cannot make it to a class, you will need to let the instructor know prior to the start of a class. If it is an excused absence (official USC travel, medical excuse, etc.), then we will provide you with an alternative way to obtain the associated activity points outside of class

Grading Breakdown

Assignment	Points	Grade %
Final exam	130	44%
Article analysis & discussion	50	17%
Scientific Story Article	100	34%
In-class participation	15	5%
TOTAL	250	100%

Grading Scale

Final course grades will be determined based on the percentage of points earned as outlined below: >93 = A; 90-92 = A-; 87-89 = B+; 83-86 = B; 80-82 = B-; 77-79 = C+; 73-76 = C; 70-72 = C-; 67-69 = D+; 63-66 = D; 60-62 = D-; <59 = Fail. This scale may be adjusted depending on the progress of the class. If course taken as a “Pass” grade student must earn a C- or greater in course (scores at or below a D+ grade = “No Pass”).

Additional policies

Routine attendance and active participation are an important part of each class session. Participation will be evaluated via thought exercises, reading assignments, in-class quizzes and questions. You are responsible for all information, announcements, date changes and any other course material presented, regardless of your participation or presence in the classroom.

For the best learning experience, you are expected to have read the assigned material by the date it is discussed in class. Articles, supplemental readings and in-class data sets will be posted online on Blackboard. Finally...Come to class prepared; Be respectful of the instructor and other students; don't use your mobile phone during class; and, if you have to miss class make sure you arrange to get notes and announcements.

Course Schedule

The schedule of topics and readings may be adjusted throughout the semester depending on progress of the class.

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
Aug 24	Introduction and course overview		
Aug 31	Conservation biology	CBFA: Ch. 1 See Bb: Ehrlich & Mooney	
Sept 7	Biodiversity	CBFA: Ch. 2 See Bb: Meyers 2000	Science Story Topic Due Article Analysis & Discussion 1
Sept 14	Ecosystem functions	CBFA: Ch. 3 See Bb: Walker 1992	
Sept 21	Habitat change & fragmentation	CBFA: Ch. 4, 5 See Bb: Wilcox 1985	Article Analysis & Discussion 2
Sept 28	Overexploitation & Invasive species	CBFA: Ch. 6, 7 See Bb: Simberloff 1999	Article Analysis & Discussion 3
Oct 5	NO CLASS: Science Story Group Meetings Online (via Zoom)		
Oct 12	Endangered species	CBFA: Ch. 12 See Bb: TBA	Article Analysis & Discussion 4
Oct 19	Agriculture and biofuels	See Bb: TBA	Article Analysis & Discussion 5
Oct 26	Sustainable fisheries and the blue economy	See Bb: TBA	
Nov 2	Extinctions	CBFA: Ch. 10 See Bb: Tillman 1994	Completed Science Story Due
Nov 9	The future of water	See Bb	Article Analysis & Discussion 6
Nov 16	Climate change and natural disaster	CBFA: Ch. 8, 9 See Bb: Thomas 2004	Article Analysis & Discussion 7
Nov 23	Environmental justice and urban air pollution in LA	See Bb: TBA	
Nov 30	Human health risk and the environment	See Bb: TBA	Article Analysis & Discussion 8
Dec 14	FINAL EXAM; online via Bb		

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Computer Support: Zoom or general IT USC Support: Phone: 24/7 on call: 213-740-5555; Email: consult@usc.edu. **Blackboard Support:** Phone: 213-740-5555 (option 2, 24/7 on call); Email: blackboard@usc.edu

Academic Conduct: Plagiarism is an academic offense with serious consequences. Familiarize yourself with its definition in [SCampus](#). Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in [SCampus and university policies](#) on scientific misconduct.

Counseling and Mental Health: (213) 740-9355; 24/7 on call. Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops and crisis intervention. See [link](#) for details.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: (800) 273-8255; 24/7 on call. Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress. See [link](#) for details.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services: (213) 740-9355; 24/7 on call. Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. See [link](#) for details.

Office of Equity and Diversity: (213) 740-5086; Title IX: (213) 821-8298. Information on how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors and applicants. See [link](#) for details.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment: (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298. Report incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity, Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures and response. See [link](#) for details.

Office of Student Accessibility Services: (213) 740-0776. Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology and support for individual needs. See [link](#) for details.

USC Campus Support and Intervention: (213) 821-4710. Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student. See [link](#) for details.

Diversity at USC: (213) 740-2101. The Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council provides information on events, programs and training resources students at each academic school. See [link](#) for details.

USC Emergency: UPC: (213) 740-4321; HSC: (323) 442-1000; 24/7 on call. Emergency assistance and means to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible. See [DPS link](#) and [Emergency link](#) for details.

USC Department of Public Safety: UPC: (213) 740-6000; HSC: (323) 442-120; 24/7 on call. Non-emergency assistance or information. See [link](#) for details.