



## ENST 500: Interdisciplinary Approaches to

Fall 2022, Tues 3:30-6:20 pm

Section: 33072: 4 units

Location: SOS B37

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

Preferred Pronouns: he/him

Office: CAS 116

Office hours by appointment: In person or online Tues/Thurs, 12:00-2:00 pm: make appointment via Calendly:

<https://calendly.com/ginsbuda>

Email: dginsbur@usc.edu

### Course Goals

ENST 500 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 assignment and group presentation on a specific conservation management and policy issue

### Course modality

ENST 500 will be taught as a synchronous, in-person course and you are expected to be present for each lecture section. Thus, given this course uses active learning, group work, data simulations and in-class discussions, recorded lectures will not be provided to students via Zoom (or any other platform). Students that miss class are expected to get notes from their classmates (just like pre-COVID times). USC recommends (but does not require) wearing medical-grade masks or respirator masks (including surgical, N95, KN95, KF94) when indoors and around others to reduce transmission and risk of infection. **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.

## Textbook and Readings

- 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/>
- 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.

## Assignments and Activities

- **Article presentation and discussion:** This is a group assignment in which students (two per group) will select and post an article and relevant reading questions (for their classmates) from the primary literature and present/lead a discussion (~20-30 min total) during class. Each presentation is worth a total of 60 points (45 pts presentation; 15 pts posting article prior to weekend before presentation date).
- **Article analysis:** Students will read a scholarly article (selected by two of their classmates; see above) and provide a written summary (1 page max; single spaced) to questions posted online, which they will then submit via Bb (**Note:** students leading a given discussion are not required to submit a written summary for that particular week). Students will discuss their findings during class on the day each assignment is due. Nine separate article summaries are scheduled over the course of the semester (10 pts each; 90 pts total).
- **Grant proposal:** Each student will write and submit a 'mock' grant proposal on an environmental science and/or sustainability themed project. Written proposals should not exceed 4 pages (single-spaced) in length. The completed assignment is worth a total of 100 points (65 pts

presentation; 10 pts title/topic submission; 25 pts review panel discussion and participation at end of semester). We will discuss this assignment in more detail during class.

**Grading Breakdown**

Assignment	Points	Grade %
Final exam	125	30%
Article presentation & discussion	60	14%
Article analysis (9 x 10 pts each)	90	22%
Grant proposal	100	24%
In-class participation	40	10%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>415</b>	

**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 in class; 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 23	Introduction & overview	See Bb: Bradshaw et al. 2011	
Aug 30	Conservation biology	CBFA: Ch. 1 See Bb: Ehrlich & Mooney	
Sept 06	Biodiversity	CBFA: Ch. 2 See Bb: Meyers 2000	<b>Proposal Topic Due</b> Article Analysis & Discussion 1
Sept 13	Ecosystem functions	CBFA: Ch. 3 See Bb: Walker 1992	Article Analysis & Discussion 2
Sept 20	Habitat change & fragmentation	CBFA: Ch. 4, 5 See Bb: Wilcox 1985	Article Analysis & Discussion 3
Sept 27	Shifting baselines	See Bb: See Bb: Papworth et al. 2009	Article Analysis & Discussion 4
Oct 04	Invasive species	CBFA: Ch. 7 See Bb: Simberloff 1999	Article Analysis & Discussion 5

Oct 11	Endangered species	CBFA: Ch. 12 See Bb: TBA	Article Analysis & Discussion 6
Oct 18	Agriculture and biofuels	See Bb: TBA	Article Analysis & Discussion 7
Oct 25	Fisheries & the blue economy	See Bb: Pauly 2018	Article Analysis & Discussion 8
Nov 01	Extinctions	CBFA: Ch. 10 See Bb: Tillman 1994	Article Analysis & Discussion 9
Nov 08	The future of water	See Bb	<b>Completed Proposal Due</b>
Nov 15	Environmental justice & urban air pollution	See Bb: TBA	
Nov 22	Asynchronous assignment	See Bb: TBA	
Nov 29	Coastal pollution	See Bb: TBA	<b>In-Class Proposal Panel/Reviews</b>
<b>FINAL EXAM (online via Bb)</b>			

### 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](mailto:consult@usc.edu). Blackboard Support: Phone: 213-740-5555 (option 2, 24/7 on call); Email: [blackboard@usc.edu](mailto: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.