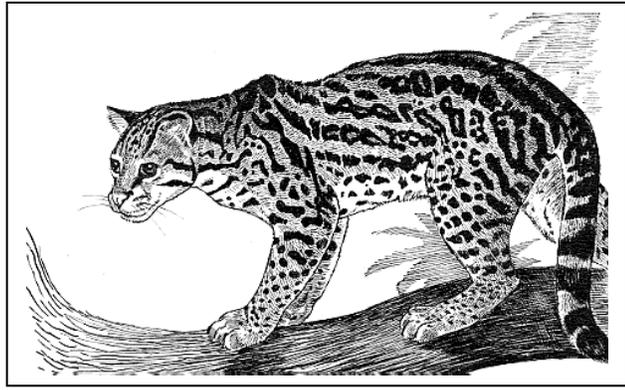


# Biology 495 Syllabus

## Independent Study in Conservation Behavior



*But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? (Job 12: 7-10, NIV)*

### **Catalog Course Description: BIO 495 - Special Studies in Biology (1-3 units)**

Individual study in depth of a selected biology topic under the direct supervision of a member of the faculty. Offered every year. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor and department chair.

**Instructor:** Dr. Mike Mooring  
104A Rohr Science Building  
Telephone: (619) 849-2719  
E-mail: [mmooring@pointloma.edu](mailto:mmooring@pointloma.edu)  
Office hours: drop by, or by appointment

**Texts:** *A Primer of Conservation Behavior* by Blumstein & Fernandez-Juricic; Sinauer, 2010; ISBN 978-0-87893-401-0.

**Meetings:** Friday 11:00-12:00  
Attendance at weekly scheduled meetings is required.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

Students will be able to:

- Apply the basic principles of Animal Behavior to solve wildlife conservation problems. Specifically, how can an understanding of evolution, habitat selection, foraging ecology, reproductive behavior antipredator behavior, communication, sociality, and personalities enhance solutions to conservation problems for wild and captive populations?
- Analyze, discuss, and summarize papers from the current peer-reviewed literature on conservation behavior and related issues.

**Format of Course:**

We will have an introductory meeting to go over the format, discuss the approach, and hammer out any details or modifications to make the course the most valuable independent learning experience possible.

Meetings 1-6 will be used to go through *A Primer of Conservation Behavior* reading 2 chapters a week. The student will write 6 summaries of the weekly readings from *A Primer of Conservation Behavior*, due on Canvas before the weekly meeting. The summary should adhere to the following criteria:

- minimum of one page
- 1.5 spacing
- 11-12 point font
- maximum 1-inch margins

Each summary will address the following questions:

- 1) What are the main points of the reading?
- 2) How does this information apply to practical conservation?

After we read the primer, the student will read 6 journal articles selected on the basis of the weekly meetings.

Meetings 7-12 will be used to go through each of the journal articles. The student will again write a summary of each article, adhering to the same criteria mentioned above. Each summary should address the following questions:

- 1) What are the main points of the paper?
- 2) How does this information apply to conservation?
- 3) What hypotheses, predictions, and/or questions were addressed?
- 4) How does this article relate to the book reading?

**What the grade will be based on:**

Attendance and participation in weekly meetings	60 pts
6 summaries from <i>A Primer of Conservation Behavior</i> (@ 10 points)	60 pts
6 summaries from the journal article readings (@ 10 points)	60 pts
Total points	180 pts

**Translation between Percentage and Letter Grades:**

A	90%	C	70%
A-	88%	C-	68%
B+	86%	D+	66%
B	80%	D	60%
B-	78%	D-	58%
C+	76%	F	< 58%

# Schedule Spring 2017

Week	Reading	
Introduction	Discuss format and approach to course	
1 – Jan 20	<i>A Primer of Conservation Behavior</i>	Chapters 1-2
2 – Jan 27	<i>A Primer of Conservation Behavior</i>	Chapters 3-4
3 – Feb 3	<i>A Primer of Conservation Behavior</i>	Chapters 5-6
4 – Feb 10	<i>A Primer of Conservation Behavior</i>	Chapters 7-8
5 – Feb 17	<i>A Primer of Conservation Behavior</i>	Chapters 9-10
6 – Feb 24	<i>A Primer of Conservation Behavior</i>	Chapters 11-12
<b>Mar 3/10</b>	<b>No meetings - Costa Rica and Spring Break</b>	
7 – Mar 17	Journal Article 1	
8 – Mar 24	Journal Article 2	
9 – Mar 31	Journal Article 3	
<b>Apr 14</b>	<b>No meeting – Easter Recess</b>	
10 – Apr 7	Journal Article 4	
11 – Apr 21	Journal Article 5	
12 – Apr 28	Journal Article 6	

## PLNU INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES

### **PLNU Mission: To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send**

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

**PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy:** Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.

**PLNU Academic Honesty Policy:** Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

**PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy:** If you have a diagnosed disability, please contact PLNU's Disability Resource Center (DRC) within the first two weeks of class to demonstrate need and to register for accommodation by phone at 619-849-2486 or by e-mail at [DRC@pointloma.edu](mailto:DRC@pointloma.edu). See [Disability Resource Center](#) for additional information.

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### **PLNU Final Examination Policy:**

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on this syllabus. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved unless you have 3 final exams scheduled on the same day or another compelling reason.

academics / faith / community

**PLNU** *forward*