

Conservation Ecology Laboratory (BIOL 484L)
Spring 2020; SCI2 119
Thursday 11:30 AM – 2:20 PM; Section 01
Friday 2:00 - 4:50 PM; Section 02

Instructor: Dr. John Hutchens

Office: SCI2 207C **Phone:** 843-349-2169

E-mail: jjhutch@coastal.edu; I prefer e-mail over phone calls

Office Hours: MWF 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM, by appointment, or just stop by

Course web site: <http://ww2.coastal.edu/jjhutch/biol484.htm>

Required text: none.

Course Description from CCU Catalog: This lab course gives students the opportunity to further their knowledge of conservation biology through hands-on, field and laboratory-based exercises.

Objectives: My objective for this lab is to provide you with hands-on experience ‘doing’ conservation ecology. You will analyze data to answer conservation questions. You will spend a lot of time in the field examining conservation ecology issues. You will also work on a population viability analysis group project. These exercises will give you first-hand experiences related to conservation ecology.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Evaluate the conservation priority of species and habitats using values-based and ecological-based ranking systems.
2. Interpret and use species diversity indices to evaluate conservation targets.
3. Use a discipline-standard software package to conduct Population Viability Analysis for a species of conservation concern.
4. Provide possible solutions to landscape-level threats to species conservation.
5. Recognize and be knowledgeable about local and regional conservation priorities.

Grading and Assessment: BIOL 484L comprises 230 (33%) pts of your BIOL 484/484L grade. You must pass the lab to receive a passing grade for BIOL 484. Your grade for the lab portion of this class is based on a project focused on population viability analysis, a long-term observation project, and three written assignments (30-35 pts each). Because your lab points are combined with your lecture points, you will receive the same grade for both lecture and lab.

Point Distribution:

Lab	Points
PVA	100
Written assignments	100
Observation project	30
Lab total	230
<i>Lecture and Lab</i>	<i>700</i>

Overall grading scale:

Grade	%	Points
A	90-100	627 – 700
B+	87-89	606 – 626
B	80-86	557 – 605
C+	77-79	536 – 556
C	70-76	487 – 535
D+	67-69	466 – 486
D	60-66	417 – 465
F	0-59	≤ 416

Cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated, and a grade of F will be given for the assignment.

CCU Student Honor Pledge: “Coastal Carolina University is an academic community that expects the highest standards of honesty, integrity and personal responsibility. As members of this community, we are accountable for our actions and are committed to creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust. On my honor, I pledge:

- That I will take responsibility for my personal behavior; and
- That I will actively oppose every instance of academic dishonesty as defined in the Code of Student Conduct.

From this day forward, my signature on any University document, including tests, papers, and other work submitted for a grade is a confirmation of this honor pledge.”

Attendance: Attending lab exercises is mandatory, except for a university excused absence (see <http://www.coastal.edu/policies/policyDetails.html?x=120> for details). As per university policy, if you miss more than 25% of labs (more than four exercises) with unexcused absences you will receive an F for the course.

Learning disabilities: Students with learning disabilities should see me at the beginning of the semester so special arrangements can be made, if necessary, for your success in this course.

Schedule: This schedule is tentative and subject to change.

Week	Date	Activity
1	Jan 16/17	Orientation; careers
2	Jan 23/24	Conservation on CCU campus
3	Jan 30/31	Local conservation field trip to Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve
4	Feb 6/7	Diversity analysis I (lab)
5	Feb 13/14	Diversity analysis II (lab)
6	Feb 20/21	Local conservation field trip to Waties Island
7	Feb 27/28	Population viability analysis—introduction; “data” collection (lab)
8	Mar 5/6	Population viability analysis—parameterize & run (lab)
	<i>Mar 12/13</i>	<i>Spring Break—no class</i>
9	Mar 19/20	Population viability analysis—scenario runs (lab)
10	Mar 26/27	Local conservation field trip to Peter Horry Wildlife Preserve
11	Apr 2/3	Reserve design (lab)
12	<i>Apr 9/10</i>	<i>Student holiday 4/10—no lab this week</i>
13	Apr 16/17	Local conservation field trip to urbanized coastal watershed
14	Apr 23/24	Local conservation field trip to forested wetland

Field work: Many of our exercises involve being in the great outdoors. We will go RAIN or SHINE. Come prepared!!! Some hints:

- Wear appropriate shoes and clothing for getting wet and dirty
- Expect high heat and bright sun, or bitter cold and dark clouds—you just never know
- Expect to be potentially bit or stung (**bring repellent and allergy kits**)
- Have a positive attitude