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The published on-line version of the Course Profile is the authoritative version and by the publication of the Course Profile on-line the University deems the student has been notified of and read the course requirements.

# 1. General Course Information

## 1.1 Course Details

<b>COURSE CODE</b>	3606ENV
<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	Conservation Biology
<b>ACADEMIC ORGANISATION</b>	ESC School of Environment and Science
<b>TRIMESTER</b>	Trimester 1 2021
<b>MODE</b>	Blended
<b>LEVEL</b>	Undergraduate
<b>LOCATION</b>	Nathan, On Campus
<b>CREDIT POINT VALUE</b>	10

## Course Description:

This course introduces students to specialist topics in biology that are relevant to conservation of biodiversity. It includes study of extinction and its causes including habitat loss, disease and alien species, addresses the nature and cause of natural rarity, examines processes of restoration ecology and reintroductions. The course also includes an appraisal of international initiatives in conservation and international agreements with implications for conservation. Assessment is by written and oral reports, and examinations. Prerequisites: 1041SCG Biological Systems or 1042SCG Genetics and Evolutionary Biology AND 2603ENV/2051ENV Ecology or 2315ENV Urban Ecology and Biodiversity

## Assumed Background:

Prerequisite: 1041SCG Biological Systems and 1042SCG Genetics and Evolutionary Biology and 2603ENV Ecology

## 1.2 Course Introduction

This course introduces students to topics in biology and ecology that are relevant to the conservation of biodiversity. It includes the study of extinction and its causes including habitat loss, disease and alien species, overexploitation, secondary extinctions and climate change. It addresses the nature and cause of natural rarity, and examines processes of restoration ecology and reintroductions. Students are introduced to modelling tools and practical strategies to manage these threats to species and ecological communities.

## Previous Student Feedback

"This was such a wonderful course. I originally enrolled in it at the last minute as an elective and I'm so glad I did. This course covers such a wide range of conservation issues as well as practical ecology content."

"This was one of the best courses I have had the privilege of taking. The assessment was very well designed and promoted self learning in conjunction with the course content. The topics covered were highly relevant and varied. This made for a very engaging course"

## 1.3 Course Staff

Primary Convenor **Dr Ali Chauvenet**

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<b>EMAIL</b>	<a href="mailto:a.chauvenet@griffith.edu.au">a.chauvenet@griffith.edu.au</a>
<b>CAMPUS</b>	Gold Coast Campus
<b>BUILDING</b>	Science 1 (G24)
<b>ROOM</b>	3.09

## 1.4 Timetable

Timetables are available on [the Programs and Courses website](#).

NB: Details contained in this Section of the course profile and Section 4.1 Learning Activities are to be read in conjunction with the official class timetable. The published class timetable which is the authoritative source for timetabling information for all campuses can be located by clicking on the above link.

## 1.5 Lecture Capture

It is standard practice at Griffith University that lectures timetabled in lecture capture-enabled venues are recorded and made available to students on the relevant course site, in accordance with the University's [Lecture Capture Policy](#).

The lecture series delivered as part of this course will be recorded and accessible via the Learning@Griffith course site.

# 2. Aims, Outcomes & Graduate Attributes

## 2.1 Course Aims

Students of Conservation Biology and Wildlife Biology require a strong understanding of the principles and practice of conservation biology. Students need to understand what historical and current processes lead to species extinction, how to identify and manage endangered populations, communities and ecosystems. They should also be familiar with the principal tools used by conservation biologists, including conservation genetics and modelling. Finally, they should be aware of range and type of international, national and local laws that relate to endangered species.

## 2.2 Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course you should be able to:

- 1 understand what is meant by the terms conservation biology and biodiversity
- 2 comprehend the factors that lead to species extinction
- 3 be able to evaluate populations of a species to determine if they are threatened
- 4 be familiar with conservation and management approaches
- 5 have knowledge of modelling as a management tool in conservation
- 6 be familiar with the animals and plants in Australia that are threatened or endangered
- 7 be familiar with the role that population genetics plays in conservation biology
- 8 have experience at scientific writing in a range of contexts
- 9 critically evaluate management options for endangered species, ecological communities and ecosystems
- 10 Critically read and assess published conservation science articles

## 2.3. Graduate Attributes

For further details on the Griffith Graduate please [click here](#)

Griffith University prepares influential graduates to be:

- [Knowledgeable and skilled, with critical judgement](#)
- [Effective communicators and collaborators](#)
- [Innovative, creative and entrepreneurial](#)
- [Socially responsible and engaged in their communities](#)
- [Culturally capable when working with First Australians](#)
- [Effective in culturally diverse and international environments](#)

**This table demonstrates where each of the Griffith Graduate Attributes is taught, practised and assessed in this course.**

For further details on the Griffith Graduate Attributes please refer to [The Griffith Graduate policy](#).

University wide attributes

GRADUATE ATTRIBUTE	TAUGHT	PRACTISED	ASSESSED
Knowledgeable and skilled, with critical judgement	•	•	•
Effective communicators and collaborators	•	•	•
Innovative, creative and entrepreneurial	•	•	•
Socially responsible and engaged in their communities	•	•	
Culturally capable when working with First Australians	•	•	
Effective in culturally diverse and international environments	•	•	

**Additional Course Information on Graduate Attributes**

This course includes experience in, and assessment of, written communication skills, oral communication skills, quantitative skills, deductive logic skills, and teamwork. The role of these skills in each assessment item is detailed under "Assessment".

### 3. Learning Resources

#### 3.1 Required Resources

Details of your Required Learning Resources are available from the [Reading List](#).

#### 3.2 Recommended Resources

Details of your Recommended Learning Resources are available from the [Reading List](#).

#### 3.3 University Learning Resources

The University provides many facilities and support services to assist students in their studies. Links to information about University support resources that are available to students are included below for easy reference.

[Readings](#) - New online service enabling students to access Required and Recommended Learning resources. It connects to the library catalogue to assist with quickly locating material held in Griffith libraries and enables students to manage and prioritise their readings, add personal study notes and export citations.

[Learning@Griffith](#) - there is a dedicated website for this course via the Learning@Griffith at myGriffith.

[Academic Integrity Tutorial](#) - this tutorial helps students to understand what academic integrity is and why it matters. You will be able to identify types of academic misconduct, understand what skills you will need in order to maintain academic integrity, and learn about the processes of referencing styles.

[Student Support](#) - provides a range of services to support students throughout their studies including personal support such as Counselling and Health Services; Academic support; and Financial and Welfare support.

The [Careers and Employment Team](#) provides: Career Wellbeing, Career Planning and Decision Making, Finding Jobs, Skills Identification and Development, Graduate Employment Information, LinkedIn Profile Review, Interview Preparation, Online Psychometric and Aptitude Test Preparation, International Student Support, Disability Disclosure Strategies and Higher Degree Research (HDR) Career Consultations.

[Library and Learning Services](#): Library and Learning Services provides a wide range of quality client-focused services and programs to students, researchers and staff of the University. Library and Learning Services works in collaboration with the academic community to achieve academic and research outcomes.

[Support for learning](#) - the University provides access to common use computing facilities for educational purposes.

[Code of Practice](#) - Griffith Information Technology Resources.

#### 3.5 Other Learning Resources & Information

References to primary literature will be provided on Learning at Griffith throughout the course. All materials will be available online or in the Griffith University library

# 4. Teaching & Learning Activities

## 4.1 Learning Activities

Week Commencing	Activity	Learning Outcomes
8 Mar 21	<b>Course introduction (Lecture):</b> conservation biology past and present; what is biodiversity?; brief overview of Australia's conservation needs	1
15 Mar 21	<b>Threats to biodiversity (Lecture):</b> habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation, disease, over-exploitation, invasive species, climate change; rarity, vulnerability and conservation status	1, 2
15 Mar 21	<b>Journal club 1 (Workshop):</b> introduction	1, 2, 3, 10
22 Mar 21	<b>Population demography and dynamics (Lecture):</b> population demography and ; genetics; stochasticity and dynamics; biodiversity conservation frameworks	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
22 Mar 21	<b>Journal club 2 (Workshop):</b> methodology	10
29 Mar 21	<b>Lab 1 (Workshop):</b> population demography practical	4, 5
29 Mar 21	<b>Plant conservation (Lecture):</b> threatened plants conservation; crops and weeds	2, 3, 4, 6
12 Apr 21	<b>Lab 2 (Workshop):</b> biodiversity metrics practical	5, 9
12 Apr 21	<b>Species management (Lecture):</b>	4, 9
19 Apr 21	<b>Large scale patterns of biodiversity (Lecture):</b> patterns of biodiversity; hotspots; priority mapping; biodiversity metrics	1, 2, 3, 4, 9
19 Apr 21	<b>Journal club 3 (Workshop):</b> results	9, 10
26 Apr 21	<b>ex situ conservation (Lecture):</b> ex situ vs in situ; natural and human-driven species range shift; translocations as a conservation tool	3, 4, 7, 9
26 Apr 21	<b>Journal club 4 (Workshop):</b> discussion	9, 10
3 May 21	<b>Protected Areas as a conservation tool (Lecture):</b> what are protected areas?; critical evaluation of PAs; introduction to spatial conservation planning	3, 4, 9
3 May 21	<b>Journal club 5 (Workshop):</b> abstract	10
10 May 21	<b>Ecosystem conservation (Lecture):</b> ecosystem functions and services; ecological conservation; community conservation	2, 3, 4, 6, 9
10 May 21	<b>Lab 3 (Workshop):</b> Conservation planning practical	5, 9
17 May 21	<b>Lab 4 (Workshop):</b> ALA data practical	2, 3, 9
17 May 21	<b>Monitoring and conservation (Lecture):</b> invasive and non-invasive monitoring techniques; optimal monitoring work; assessing data	3, 4, 9
24 May 21	<b>Conservation planning (Lecture):</b> planning beyond spatial conservation planning; decision science; prioritisation	4, 9
24 May 21	<b>Lab 5 (Workshop):</b> monitoring practical	3, 4, 9
31 May 21	<b>Talks (Workshop):</b>	9
31 May 21	<b>People and conservation (Lecture):</b> equity and resource rights; conservation policy; human wildlife conflict	2, 3, 4, 9

## 4.2 Other Teaching and Learning Activities Information

The core theoretical content will be delivered in three x one hour lectures, and reinforced by one x one hour workshops to reinforce lecture material.

-	Activity	Hours per week	Total hours
1.	Lectures (three per week)	3	36
2.	Workshops (weeks 2 - 12)	1	11
3.	Independent work for assignments and exams	5	60

Note: Attendance at workshops is compulsory and examinable.

### Students Repeating a Course

Normally, students repeating a course should not 'carry forward' marks from a previous attempt. Assessment items are usually offered to provide formative experience as well as a summative assessment. Therefore, NO MARK for any assessment item from a previous attempt will be carried forward.

If a lecture or tutorial class is scheduled on a **public holiday** (or is cancelled for any unexpected reason), this class will normally not be repeated.

## 5. Assessment Plan

### 5.1 Assessment Summary

This is a summary of the assessment in the course. For detailed information on each assessment, see [5.2 Assessment Detail](#) below.

ASSESSMENT TASK	DUE DATE	WEIGHTING	MARKED OUT OF	LEARNING OUTCOMES	MAXIMUM EXTENSION PERIOD
<i>Test or quiz</i> Mid trimester exam	22 Apr 21 13:00 Duration 1 hour, administered online	20%	100 marks	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
<i>Assignment - Laboratory/Laboratory Report</i> Workshop workbook	12 May 21 23:59	25%	100 marks	2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10	
<i>Assignment - Problem Solving Assignment</i> Critical evaluation of conservation problem	26 May 21 23:59	20%	100 marks	8, 9, 10	
<i>Exam - constructed response</i> Conservation Biology final exam (2 hours)	Examination Period	35%	100 marks (Must achieve a min of 45 out of 100)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	

### 5.2 Assessment Detail

**Title:** Mid trimester exam

**Type:** Test or quiz

**Learning Outcomes Assessed:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

**Due Date:**

22 Apr 21 13:00 Duration 1 hour, administered online

**Weight:** 20%

**Marked out of:** 100

**Task Description:**

This exam will take place in the Thursday lecture of week 6 and will test student's knowledge and understanding of the content of the first five weeks of the course.

**Criteria & Marking:**

Criteria will be provided through Learning@Griffith. Feedback will be received within two weeks of submission via L@G.

**Submission:** Via the 'Assignments' tool in Learning@Griffith.

**This assessment item:**

- is a school based activity
- is an individual activity
- does not include a self assessment activity
- does not have a re-attempt provision

**Title:** Workshop workbook

**Type:** Assignment - Laboratory/Laboratory Report

**Learning Outcomes Assessed:** 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10

**Due Date:**

12 May 21 23:59

**Weight:** 25%

**Marked out of:** 100

**Task Description:**

Students will be given a workbook that contains practical exercises associated with the 5 practicals, and questions associated with the 5 journal club sessions.

Feedback will be received within two weeks of submission via L@G.

**Criteria & Marking:**

Criteria will be supplied on L@G.

**Submission:** Via the 'Assignments' tool in Learning@Griffith. To be submitted via Turnitin

**This assessment item:**

- is a school based activity
- is an individual activity
- does not include a self assessment activity
- does not have a re-attempt provision

**Title:** Critical evaluation of conservation problem

**Type:** Assignment - Problem Solving Assignment

**Learning Outcomes Assessed:** 8, 9, 10

**Due Date:**

26 May 21 23:59

**Weight:** 20%

**Marked out of:** 100

**Task Description:**

This is a group-based activities. Groups will be given a conservation problem and asked to demonstrate how they would research it, write up the result of their research, and self-reflect on their work as a group.

Feedback will be received within two weeks of submission via L@G.

**Criteria & Marking:**

A rubric will be provided through Learning@Griffith.

**Submission:** Text Matching Tool - Turnitin.

**This assessment item:**

- is a school based activity
- is a group activity
- includes a self assessment activity
- does not have a resubmission provision

**Title:** Conservation Biology final exam (2 hours)

**Type:** Exam - constructed response

**Learning Outcomes Assessed:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

**Due Date:**

Examination Period

**Weight:** 35%

**Marked out of:** 100

**Perusal:** 10 minutes

**Duration:** 120 minutes

**Format:** Closed Book with Notes, Online

**Task Description:**

A final exam (2 hours) will be held at the end of the trimester in the exam period. It will assess students' understanding of material presented in lectures and workshops.

**Criteria & Marking:**

All lectures and Workshop material are assessable. A minimum mark of 45% for the exam is required to pass the course.

**This assessment item:**

- is a centrally organised activity
- is an individual activity
- does not include a self assessment activity
- contains a mandatory pass component

## 5.3 Late Submission

**For all non-Honours Dissertation courses:** An assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension, will be penalised. The standard penalty is the reduction of the mark allocated to the assessment item by 5% of the total weighted mark for the assessment item, for each working day that the item is late. A working day will be defined as Monday to Friday. Assessment items submitted more than five working days after the due date will be awarded zero marks. To understand how the mark is reduced please refer to [Assessment Procedures for Students](#).

**For all Honours Dissertation courses:** Enrolment in an Honours degree shall be cancelled and the candidature terminated if the candidate fails to lodge their Honours dissertation by the prescribed date including any approved extensions.

## 5.4 Other Assessment Information

**Supplementary Assessment** is available in this course in accordance with Section 8 of the University Assessment Policy. To achieve a Pass grade for the course a pass mark for the supplementary assessment item must be achieved.

**Final Grades**

A student's final grade for this course will be based on the aggregation and weighting of marks across assessment, any mandatory pass components and grade cut-offs. Grade cut-offs can vary, so you will need to wait for the official release of grades to be sure of your grade for this course.

- This course is a graded course (i.e 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1).
- This course contains mandatory pass components.

**Mandatory pass component**

To be eligible to pass this course, students must:

1. achieve an overall pass mark for this course
2. achieve a minimum percentage mark of 45% [min 45 out of 100 for 'Conservation Biology final exam (2 hours)']

## 6. Policies & Guidelines

This section contains the details of and links to the most relevant policies and course guidelines. For further details on University Policies please visit the [Policy Library](#)

## 6.1 Assessment Related Policies and Guidelines

### University Policies & Guidelines

The University's assessment-related policies can be found in the [Griffith Policy Library](#).

Please refer to the following specific policies:

- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Assessment Procedure for Students](#)

## 6.2 Other Policies and Guidelines

### University Policies and Guidelines

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have read all sections of the Course Profile for the course/s in which they are enrolled in any enrolment period. The published online version of the Course Profile is the authoritative version and by the publication of the Course Profile online, the University deems the student has been notified of and read the course requirements. Variations to the Course Profile during the trimester of offer are not permitted except in exceptional circumstances and will be advised in writing to all enrolled students and via the [Learning@Griffith](mailto:Learning@Griffith) website. Additional information regarding the content of this course may be published on the [Learning@Griffith](mailto:Learning@Griffith) website.

#### Copyright matters

Copyright applies to all teaching materials and materials generated by students which substantially relate to Griffith University courses. *Students are warned against selling Griffith University teaching materials and their student notes online through commercial websites during and after their studies.* You will almost certainly be in breach of copyright law and Griffith's IT Code of Practice if you post these materials on the internet and commercial websites. Please refer to the [Copyright Guide for Students](#) for further information.

#### Health and Safety

Griffith University is committed to providing a safe work and study environment. However, all students, staff and visitors have an obligation to ensure the safety of themselves and those whose safety may be affected by their actions. Staff in control of learning activities will ensure as far as reasonably practical, that those activities are safe and that all safety obligations are being met. Students are required to comply with all safety instructions and are requested to report safety concerns to the University.

General health and safety information is available on the [Health, Safety and Wellbeing](#) website.

#### Other Key Student-Related Policies

All University policy documents are accessible to students via the [Griffith Policy Library](#) and links to key policy documents, in addition to those listed in 6.1 above, are included below for easy reference:

- [Student Communications Policy](#)
- [Health and Safety Policy](#)
- [Student Administration Policy](#)
- [Student Charter](#)
- [Student Review and Appeals Policy](#)
- [Student Review and Appeals Procedures](#)
- [Student Complaints Policy](#)

### Other Course Guidelines

It is expected that students will attend all lectures and workshops.