BIO121: Environmental Conservation

Credit Hours: 3

Contact Hours: This is a 3-credit course, offered in accelerated format. This means that 16 weeks of material is covered in 8 weeks. The exact number of hours per week that you can expect to spend on each course will vary based upon the weekly coursework, as well as your study style and preferences. You should plan to spend 14-20 hours per week in each course reading material, interacting on the discussion boards, writing papers, completing projects, and doing research.

Faculty Information

Faculty contact information and office hours can be found on the faculty profile page.

Course Description and Outcomes

Course Description:
Environmental Conservation explores concepts in ecology and conservation biology. It starts with an introduction to ecosystems and the importance of biodiversity, then dives into different threats the environment is facing with a focus on the role of humans in creating and preventing those threats. Personal impacts on the environment and ways to reduce them are also explored.

Course Overview:
This course starts by setting a foundation in ecology focusing on ecosystems, the importance of biodiversity, and how all organisms are connected. Major issues facing the environment including human population growth, climate change, pollution, habitat loss, energy use, and food consumption are addressed. Assessments, such as discussions and assignments, ask students to analyze topics by exploring threats, creating hypotheses about them and determining the data needed to assess their impact, or synthesizing the material covered and exploring a specific aspect of it, often with a focus on an area or species of particular interest to them. Focus then moves on to the players involved in creating and helping mitigate these threats and how our own actions affect the environment. The final portfolio project pulls together elements from different modules focusing on an environmental topic of their choice. Students will also implement an action that will have a positive effect on the environment to help remedy an issue associated with their topic. Data is required to show the effect of the action with a discussion of how continued implementation of the change would impact the environment.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Describe how interconnected organisms on Earth are.
2. Analyze the causes of threats facing the natural environment.
3. Compare and contrast the effects of solutions to environmental threats.
4. Assess the role humans play in threats to the environment and their solutions.
5. Analyze personal impacts on the environment and ways to reduce that impact.

**Participation & Attendance**

Prompt and consistent attendance in your online courses is essential for your success at CSU-Global Campus. Failure to verify your attendance within the first 7 days of this course may result in your withdrawal. If for some reason you would like to drop a course, please contact your advisor.

Online classes have deadlines, assignments, and participation requirements just like on-campus classes. Budget your time carefully and keep an open line of communication with your instructor. If you are having technical problems, problems with your assignments, or other problems that are impeding your progress, let your instructor know as soon as possible.

**Course Materials**

**Required:**


**NOTE:** All non-textbook required readings and materials necessary to complete assignments, discussions, and/or supplemental or required exercises will be provided within the course itself. Please read through each course module carefully.

**Course Schedule**

**Due Dates**

The Academic Week at CSU-Global begins on Monday and ends the following Sunday.

- **Discussion Boards:** The original post must be completed by Thursday at 11:59 p.m. MT and Peer Responses posted by Sunday 11:59 p.m. MT. Late posts may not be awarded points.
- **Opening Exercises:** Take the opening exercise before reading each week’s content to see which areas you will need to focus on. You may take these exercises as many times as you need. The opening exercises will not affect your final grade.
- **Mastery Exercises:** Students may access and retake mastery exercises through the last day of class until they achieve the scores they desire.
- **Critical Thinking:** Assignments are due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. MT.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week #</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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| 1      | Chapters 3, 4, & 5 in *Environmental Science*  
        | Discussion (25 points)  
        | Opening Exercise (0 points)  
        | Mastery Exercise (10 points)  
        | Critical Thinking (80 points) |
|   | (2) | • Chapter 6 in *Environmental Science*  
|   |     | Discussion (25 points)  
|   |     | Opening Exercise (0 points)  
|   |     | Mastery Exercise (10 points)  
|   |     | Critical Thinking (80 points)  
|   | (3) | • Chapters 7 & 15 in *Environmental Science*  
|   |     | Discussion (25 points)  
|   |     | Opening Exercise (0 points)  
|   |     | Mastery Exercise (10 points)  
|   |     | Critical Thinking (60 points)  
|   | (4) | • Chapters 11 & 16 in *Environmental Science*  
|   |     | Discussion (25 points)  
|   |     | Opening Exercise (0 points)  
|   |     | Mastery Exercise (10 points)  
|   |     | Portfolio Milestone (20 points)  
|   |     | Discussion (25 points)  
|   |     | Opening Exercise (0 points)  
|   |     | Mastery Exercise (10 points)  
|   |     | Critical Thinking (60 points)  
|   | (6) | • Chapters 8 & 9 in *Environmental Science*  
|   |     | Discussion (25 points)  
|   |     | Opening Exercise (0 points)  
|   |     | Mastery Exercise (10 points)  
|   |     | Critical Thinking (90 points)  
|   |     | Discussion (25 points)  
|   |     | Opening Exercise (0 points)  
|   |     | Opening Exercise (0 points)  

Assignment Details

This course includes the following assignments/projects:

Module 1

CRITICAL THINKING ASSIGNMENT (80 points)
Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

Option #1: Analyzing Diversity

Your book lists four different types of diversity: species diversity, genetic diversity, ecological diversity, and functional diversity. Pick one type of diversity and create a plan to assess it in your backyard or a local outdoor area. Write a paper addressing the following:

1. Describe your location. Does it receive a lot of rain? What time of year is it? Give a general description of the kinds of species found here.
2. Discuss the type of diversity you would like to assess in the area and why. Make a hypothesis about the diversity you would expect to find.
3. Create your plan.
   a. What data would you need to assess that kind of diversity? How could you collect that data?
   b. Create a hypothetical table of the data you might find in your area.
   c. What are different ways you could analyze that data?
4. Discuss the importance of diversity for a healthy ecosystem.
5. What impact do you think humans have on diversity in this natural area?

Requirements:
- Your written paper should be three to four pages in length, not counting the title and reference pages, which you must include.
- You need to cite at least three sources for this assignment, outside of the textbook. The CSU-Global Library is a great place to find resources.
- Your paper must be formatted according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.
If you need assistance with your writing style, start with the links under the Research Help and Writing Help tabs on the CSU-Global Library’s homepage.

**Option #2: Why are There so Many Different Species?**

Take a walk outside. Find a place away from human development and sit down for 20 minutes. What group of species from those listed below will be most abundant? Write down your hypothesis.

Next, record data. From your one spot, how many different species belonging to the following groups did you observe (include any introduced by humans that are observed in your area as well and make a note of them, such as dogs):

- Grasses
- Flowers (smaller than a shrub)
- Trees and shrubs
- Insects
- Birds
- Mammals
- Reptiles
- Amphibians
- Fish

Write a paper using the following format:

1. **Introduction**
   a. Describe your location. Does it receive a lot of rain? What time of year is it? Give a general description of the kinds of species found here.
   b. State your initial hypothesis about what group of species you thought would be most abundant and why.

2. **Methods**
   a. State how you collected data.

3. **Results**
   a. Summarize your data in a table.
   b. What group had the most species? Why do you think this group is most abundant in this location?
   c. What group was least abundant? Why do you think it is least abundant in this location?

4. **Discussion**
   a. Analyze the impact of removing your most abundant group from your location.
   b. What impact do you think humans have on diversity in this natural environment?

**Requirements:**

- Your written paper should be three to four pages in length, not counting the title and reference pages, which you must include.
- You need to cite at least three sources for this assignment, outside of the textbook. The CSU-Global Library is a great place to find resources.
- Your paper must be formatted according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.
- If you need assistance with your writing style, start with the links under the Research Help and Writing Help tabs on the CSU-Global Library’s homepage.

**PORTFOLIO PROJECT REMINDER (0 points)**

Review the Portfolio Project Description on the Week 8 Assignments page and the Portfolio Project grading rubric, which can be accessed from the Course Information page.
Module 2

CRITICAL THINKING ASSIGNMENT (80 points)
Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

Option #1: Solutions to Population Growth

Reducing population growth is a rather controversial topic. Many different solutions have been proposed to help reduce population growth (in addition to those mentioned in your textbook) to help save the environment. Research different ideas to reduce population growth. Choose three options you found that you think would be the best options to reduce population growth in the United States. Compose an argumentative paper to describe the solutions and why you think they are the best options for the United States. In the paper you should:

1. Summarize the problem with human population growth in the United States.
2. Present the three options you think would be good to help reduce population growth in the United States and describe why they would be good options. How will their impact be beneficial for the environment?
3. For each of your options, present an opposing view and then describe why that view is not valid.
4. Design a test to assess the solution you think may be the best. First provide your hypothesis presented in the following format: If this happens/is controlled this way, this will be observed. Describe how data would be gathered and then the expected results.

Requirements:
- Your written paper should be three to four pages in length not counting the title and reference pages, which you must include.
- You need to cite at least three sources for this assignment, outside of the textbook. The CSU-Global Library is a great place to find resources.
- Your paper must be formatted according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.
- If you need assistance with your writing style, start with the links under the Research Help and Writing Help tabs on the CSU-Global Library’s homepage.

Option #2: Should Efforts to Reduce Population Growth Focus on Third World Countries?

Third World countries tend to grow at a much faster rate than developed countries. Much effort has gone into reducing this growth rate. For conservation purposes, would reducing the growth rate in third world countries be more or less beneficial than reducing growth rate in developed countries? Pick a side and compose an argumentative paper. In the paper you should:

1. Summarize the problem with human population growth on the environment.
2. Take a stance about focusing efforts to reduce population growth in Third World countries to reduce the impact humans have on the environment. Will it have a big effect on conservation efforts to maintain biodiversity?
3. Present three arguments for your position. With each of your arguments, present an opposing view and discuss why it would not be valid.
4. Design a test to assess your theory about reducing population growth in Third World countries. First provide your hypothesis presented in the following format: If this happens/is controlled this way, this will be observed. Describe how data would be gathered and then the expected results.

Requirements:
- Your written paper should be three to four pages in length, not counting the title and reference pages, which you must include.
Module 3

CRITICAL THINKING ASSIGNMENT (60 points)
Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

Option #1: Solutions to Climate Change

Climate change is an environmental problem occurring on an immense scale, extending to every natural area on Earth. Solutions have been presented to help stop climate change. Will they actually work? What could we do to help them? In this assignment, research one solution to climate change and then write a paper covering the following:

1. Summarize the effects of climate change on the environment.
2. Present your solution to climate change and how it would work.
3. Present your hypothesis describing the exact impacts of your solution that may be observed and how that impact could be assessed. What data would need to gather and what would you expect it to look like to indicate the solution is working?
4. What issues might prevent the solution from working? Will it work everywhere? Are there modifications that could be made to make it work better?
5. How can you personally help make the solution work?

Requirements:
- Your written paper should be two to three pages in length, not counting the title and reference pages, which you must include.
- You need to cite at least two sources for this assignment, outside of the textbook. The CSU-Global Library is a great place to find resources.
- Your paper must be formatted according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.
- If you need assistance with your writing style, start with the links under the Research Help and Writing Help tabs on the CSU-Global Library’s homepage.

Option #2: Climate Change Around the World

The effects of climate change can be seen even in the far reaches of Antarctica. What are some of the effects being observed? How can we stop them? For this paper, choose a location. It can be a country, a state, a county, or even a city. Research the effects climate change is causing on that location. How are plants and animals impacted? How are humans impacted? Write a paper covering the following:

1. Summarize the general impacts of climate change on the environment.
2. Introduce your location by describing the climate, geography, species, and people who live there.
3. Discuss the issues this location is experiencing due to climate change. Are sea levels rising? What effect do the issues have on the environment? How are local species affected by that?
4. Is anything being done to reduce the impacts of climate change in your chosen location? Do you think the solutions will work? How could you assess the impact of one of them? Present a hypothesis describing the exact impacts that may be observed and how that impact could be assessed. What data would need to gather and what would you expect it to look like to indicate the solution is working?
5. How can you help reduce the effects of climate change? Even if you are not focused on a local place your actions can make an impact!
Requirements:

- Your written paper should be two to three pages in length not counting the title and reference pages, which you must include.
- You need to cite at least two sources for this assignment, outside of the textbook. The CSU-Global Library is a great place to find resources.
- Your paper must be formatted according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.
- If you need assistance with your writing style, start with the links under the Research Help and Writing Help tabs on the CSU-Global Library’s homepage.

Module 4

PORTFOLIO PROJECT MILESTONE (20 POINTS)

After reading both of the portfolio options, you need to choose which one you will complete. For Portfolio Option #1, submit a short paragraph indicating that you will be focusing on a species, identify the species you will use for your project, and tell why you chose it. Feel free to use a species you have discussed in class already or pick a new one. Also, start thinking about what actions you might want to take to help save your species. During Module 7 you will implement actions and submit a summary of how it went.

For Portfolio Option #2, submit a short paragraph indicating that you will be focusing on a natural area, identify the natural area you will use for your project, and why you chose it. Feel free to use a natural area you have discussed in class already or pick a new one. Also, start thinking about what actions you might want to take to help your natural area. During Module 7 you will implement an action and submit a summary of how it went.

Here are the Portfolio Project options. You can get this information plus the grading rubrics for the project in the Module 8 folder.

Portfolio Option #1: Help Save a Species Paper

Conservation is an interdisciplinary subject where everyday actions of humans have an impact on species in foreign countries. To help solve these impacts, it is important to understand how our actions affect the environment. For this portfolio option you will choose one species that you want to ensure will be around for many generations. It can be any plant or animal naturally found in the wild (no humans, domestic cats, domestic dogs, etc.). You will produce a paper about the threats your species is facing and how we can help overcome them. You will also create a pamphlet that you could use to spread the word about the issues your species is facing and encourage people to help it. Your paper will address the following elements:

1. Describe your species, including where it is found, what it eats, who eats it, how it interacts with humans, etc.
2. Discuss the IUCN Red List status (is it endangered?) and research the threats to the survival of this species. Use the IUCN Red List (http://www.iucnredlist.org/) as one of your sources for this section.
3. Describe the threats facing your species and how these threats affect other species as well. Are humans or organizations one of the threats?
4. Discuss solutions to the threats facing your species. What solutions have been presented by people in the field? What solutions can you think of based on what you know?
5. Choose one way you can help save your species. Try it out and record data to show how your changes will have an impact. Start recycling for a week. Become a vegetarian for a week. Start buying FSC certified products. Create a compost pile. Switch to organic farming in your garden. Plant a pollinator garden. Reduce the amount of time you spend in the car for a week. Is your house drafty? Look into ways to reduce the loss of heat/cool air and try one out. Reduce the amount you use the heater or air conditioning by increasing or decreasing the setting a few degrees. What else can you think of to do? This must be a change in your habits from before so you can record data on the impact your change had.
   a. Discuss why you chose the method to help that you did and how it went.
b. Present the data you collected from before and after the change to show the impact your change had.
c. Is this something you could continue to do? What would be the impact on the environment if you did continue to implement this change?

Requirements:
- Your written paper should be five to seven pages in length, not counting the title and reference pages, which you must include.
- You need to cite at least ten sources for this assignment, outside of the textbook. Six of these sources must come from academic journals. The CSU-Global Library is a great place to find resources.
- Your paper must be formatted according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.
- If you need assistance with your writing style, start with the links under the Research Help and Writing Help tabs on the CSU-Global Library’s homepage.
- Pamphlet - In addition to the paper, you also need to complete a pamphlet. This pamphlet can be aimed at any audience of your choosing. The purpose of the pamphlet is to educate your audience about the issues your species is facing and motivate them to help! Make sure you use plenty of properly cited images. Support your pamphlet with at least two properly cited references.

Option #2: Help Save a Natural Area

After reading both of the portfolio options, you need to choose which one you will complete.

Conservation is an interdisciplinary subject where everyday actions of humans have an impact on environments around the world. To help solve these impacts, it is important to understand how our actions affect the environment. For this portfolio option you will choose a natural area that you want to ensure will be around for many generations. It can be any natural area such as a coral reef, a local pond, the savannahs of Africa, etc. You will produce a paper about the threats your natural area is facing and how we can help overcome them. You will also create a pamphlet that you could use to spread the word about the issues your natural area is facing and encourage people to help save it. Your paper will address the following elements:

1. Describe your natural area, including what species live there, the climate is like, the geography, and the role of humans in your natural area.
2. Discuss the threats facing your natural area. Is climate change causing problems there? Is there a problem with habitat loss? Is pollution causing problems? What else affects your area?
3. Describe how these threats facing your area affect other natural areas as well. Are the threats strictly local threats, or do other places experience them as well?
4. Discuss solutions to the threats facing your natural area. What solutions have been presented by others? What solutions can you think of based on what you know?
5. Choose one way you can help save your natural area. Try it out and record data to show how your changes will have an impact. Collect trash there. Start recycling for a week. Volunteer to weed out invasive plants. Reduce the amount of time you spend in the car for a week. Is your house drafty? Look into ways to reduce the loss of heat/cool air and try one out. Reduce the amount you use the heater or air conditioning by increasing or decreasing the setting a few degrees. What else can you think of to do? This must be a change in your habits from before so you can record data on the impact your change had.
   a. Discuss why you chose the method to help that you did and how it went.
   b. Present the data you collected from before and after the change to show the impact your change had.
   c. Is this something you could continue to do? What would be the impact on the environment if you did continue to implement this change?

Requirements:
- Your written paper should be five to seven pages in length, not counting the title and reference pages, which you must include.
- You need to cite at least ten sources for this assignment, outside of the textbook. Six of these sources must come from academic journals. The CSU-Global Library is a great place to find resources.
• Your paper must be formatted according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.
• If you need assistance with your writing style, start with the links under the Research Help and Writing Help tabs on the CSU-Global Library's homepage.
• Pamphlet - In addition to the paper you also need to complete a pamphlet. This pamphlet can be aimed at any audience of your choosing. The purpose of the pamphlet is to educate your audience about the issues your natural area is facing and motivate them to help! Make sure you use plenty of properly cited images. Support your pamphlet with at least two properly cited references.

Module 5

CRITICAL THINKING ASSIGNMENT (60 points)
Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

Option #1: Investigate Your Food Consumption

Food consumption has a large impact on the environment. There are different ways this occurs. In this paper you will investigate those factors related to food consumption that impact the environment. Write a paper addressing the following questions:

1. Is the consumption of organic food better for the environment than non-organic food? Why?
2. Why is the consumption of locally grown food better for the environment than food grown farther away? What role does energy use play here?
3. Why does the consumption of meat have such a large impact on the environment? Why do different meats have different impacts, and which one is the worst?
4. Does the production of dairy products have a large impact on the environment?
5. Wrap up with a discussion of your food consumption. What type of products do you consume the most? Do you eat organic or locally grown food? Why kind of meat do you eat the most? Would you consider changing your food consumption habits to reduce your impact on the environment?

Requirements:
• Your written paper should be three to four pages in length, not counting the title and reference pages, which you must include.
• You need to cite at least two sources for this assignment, outside of the textbook. The CSU-Global Library is a great place to find resources.
• Your paper must be formatted according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.
• If you need assistance with your writing style, start with the links under the Research Help and Writing Help tabs on the CSU-Global Library’s homepage.

Option #2: Investigate Your Energy Use

There are many different ways we use energy that have a large impact on the environment. In this paper you will explore some different ways humans use energy and how it impacts the environment. Write a paper addressing the following questions:

1. What impact does transportation have on the environment?
2. Do different modes of travel have different levels of impact on the environment? Which mode of travel is the worst? Which would be the best?
3. How does food production use energy? Are there different forms of food production that use more energy?
4. How do people use energy in their homes? Is there a certain use in homes where a lot of energy is wasted?
5. Do you try to conserve energy? How?
6. Discuss two forms of sustainable energy production. How do they work? Would they have any negative effects on the environment?

Requirements:
• Your written paper should be three to four pages in length not counting the title and reference pages, which you must include.
• You need to cite at least two sources for this assignment, outside of the textbook. The CSU-Global Library is a great place to find resources.
• Your paper must be formatted according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.
• If you need assistance with your writing style, start with the links under the Research Help and Writing Help tabs on the CSU-Global Library’s homepage.

Module 6

CRITICAL THINKING ASSIGNMENT (90 points)
Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

Option #1: Annotated Bibliography
The end of class will be here soon. It is time to start working on your Portfolio Project. For this option create an annotated bibliography with at least 10 references that you will use in your paper and two images you may use in your pamphlet. You can use any source you would like, but at least six of them must be from peer-reviewed journals.

References
For each reference provide the following information:
• State what kind of resource it is (peer-reviewed journal article, magazine article, website, Ted Talk, etc.) and why you think it is a reliable source of information.
• Describe why you chose the resource.
• Discuss how you will use it in your paper.

Images
For the images, make sure you are not infringing on copyright. Use your own photos or something available through creative commons. Provide the following information:
• A complete reference for the image in APA formatting.
• A description of how the image would be used in your pamphlet.

Follow APA format according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements. Include a title page, but you will not need a separate reference page. Simply put your annotations about each reference below the reference.

Requirements:
• Include a title page, but you will not need a separate reference page. Simply put your annotations about each reference below the reference.
• Your paper must be formatted according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.
• If you need assistance with your writing style, start with the links under the Research Help and Writing Help tabs on the CSU-Global Library’s homepage.

Option #2: Outline with References
For this option, create a detailed outline of your paper. Include at least five references and two images that you will use in your pamphlet. You can use any source you would like, but try to stick to journal articles as much as
possible. You will need at least 10 references in your final paper and six of those must come from peer-reviewed journals.

Create the outline, subdividing it by sections that correspond to each of the sections defined in the portfolio paper instructions. Within each section, list what you will cover and include your references where appropriate.

Insert images either at the end or within the outline where they would be useful. Make sure you are not infringing on copyright with the use of images. Use your own photos or something available through Creative Commons. Include a complete reference in the references section for each image.

Requirements:
- Include a title page, but you will not need a separate reference page. Simply put your annotations about each reference below the reference.
- Your paper must be formatted according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.
- If you need assistance with your writing style, start with the links under the Research Help and Writing Help tabs on the CSU-Global Library’s homepage.

Module 7

PORTFOLIO PROJECT MILESTONE (80 points)
Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

Option #1: Help Save a Species

This is your time to act in the name of conservation! At this point you should have narrowed down your idea to help save your species; now, put it into action. Record data from before and after you implement a change to help your species. After a week of trying your method to help conserve your species, write up a paper discussing how it went. Be sure to address the following questions:

1. What action you chose and why you chose it.
2. What planning you needed to do ahead of implementing the action. What data you recorded before implementing the change.
3. How you implemented your actions. What exactly was it that you did?
4. How things went while you were implementing your action. Were there any unforeseen obstacles?
5. The data you recorded while or after implementing your change and how it compares to the data from before you implemented the change.
6. Present the data in a figure.
7. Did you incur any benefit from the change in your actions? Were you happier? Did it save you money? Did it bring more animals to your yard? Did you feel better knowing you were helping save a species?
8. Will you continue to implement your action? Why or why not?

Requirements:
- Your written paper should be three to four pages in length, not counting the title and reference pages, which you must include.
- You need to cite at least two sources for this assignment, outside of the textbook. The CSU-Global Library is a great place to find resources.
- Your paper must be formatted according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.
- If you need assistance with your writing style, start with the links under the Research Help and Writing Help tabs on the CSU-Global Library’s homepage.

Option #2: Help Save a Natural Area
This is your time to act in the name of conservation! At this point you should have narrowed down your idea to help save your natural area; now, put it into action. After a week of trying your method to help conserve your species, write up a paper discussing how it went. Be sure to address the following questions:

1. What action you chose and why you chose it.
2. What planning you needed to do ahead of implementing the action. What data you recorded before implementing the change.
3. How you implemented your actions. What exactly was it that you did?
4. How things went while you were implementing your action. Were there any unforeseen obstacles?
5. The data you recorded while or after implementing your change and how it compares to the data from before you implemented the change.
6. Present the data in a figure.
7. Did you incur any benefit from the change in your actions? Were you happier? Did it save you money? Did it bring more animals to your yard? Did you feel better knowing you were helping save a species?
8. Will you continue to implement your action? Why or why not?

Requirements:
- Your written paper should be three to four pages in length, not counting the title and reference pages, which you must include.
- You need to cite at least two sources for this assignment, outside of the textbook. The CSU-Global Library is a great place to find resources.
- Your paper must be formatted according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.
- If you need assistance with your writing style, start with the links under the Research Help and Writing Help tabs on the CSU-Global Library’s homepage.

Module 8

Portfolio Project: (250 Points)

Important! Read First
There are two options to complete the Portfolio Project. Choose only one (1) option to complete the assignment. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

Option #1: Help Save a Species Paper

Conservation is an interdisciplinary subject where everyday actions of humans have an impact on species in foreign countries. To help solve these impacts, it is important to understand how our actions affect the environment. For this portfolio option you will choose one species that you want to ensure will be around for many generations. It can be any plant or animal naturally found in the wild (no humans, domestic cats, domestic dogs, etc.). You will produce a paper about the threats your species is facing and how we can help overcome them. You will also create a pamphlet that you could use to spread the word about the issues your species is facing and encourage people to help them. Your paper will address the following elements:

1. Describe your species including where it is found, what it eats, what eats it, how it interacts with humans, etc.
2. Discuss the IUCN Red List status (are they endangered?) and research the threats to the survival of this species. Use the IUCN Red List (http://www.iucnredlist.org/) as one of your sources for this section.
3. Describe the threats facing your species and how these threats affect other species as well. Are humans or organizations one of the threats?
4. Discuss solutions to the threats facing your species. What solutions have been presented by people in the field? What solutions can your think of based on what you know?
5. Choose one way you can help save your species. Try it out and record data to show how your changes will have an impact. Start recycling for a week. Become a vegetarian for a week. Start buying FSC certified products. Create a compost pile. Switch to organic farming in your garden. Plant a pollinator garden. Reduce the amount of time you spend in the car for a week. Is your house drafty? Look into ways to reduce the loss of heat/cool air and try one out. Reduce the amount you use the heater or air
conditioning by increasing or decreasing the setting a few degrees. What else can you think of to do? This must be a change in your habits from before so you can record data on the impact your change had.

a. Discuss why you chose the method to help that you did and how it went.
b. Present the data you collected from before and after the change to show the impact your change had.
c. Is this something you could continue to do? What would be the impact on the environment if you did continue to implement this change?

Requirements:

- Your written paper should be five to seven pages in length not counting the title and reference pages, which you must include.
- You need to cite at least 10 sources for this assignment, outside of the textbook. Six of these sources must come from academic journals. The CSU-Global Library is a great place to find resources.
- Your paper must be formatted according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.
- If you need assistance with your writing style, start with the links under the Research Help and Writing Help tabs on the CSU-Global Library’s homepage.
- In addition to the paper, you also need to complete a pamphlet (this is worth 100 points). This pamphlet can be aimed at any audience of your choosing. The purpose of the pamphlet is to educate your audience about the issues your species is facing and motivate them to help! Make sure you use plenty of properly cited images. Support your pamphlet with at least two references.

Option #2: Help Save a Natural Area Paper

Conservation is an interdisciplinary subject where everyday actions of humans have an impact on environments around the world. To help solve these impacts it is important to understand how our actions affect the environment. For this portfolio option you will choose a natural area that you want to ensure will be around for many generations. It can be any natural area, such as a coral reef, a local pond, the savannahs of Africa, etc. You will produce a paper about the threats your natural area is facing and how you can help stop them. You will also create a pamphlet that you could use to spread the word about the issues your natural area is facing and encourage people to help save it. Your paper will address the following elements:

1. Describe your natural area, including what species live there, what the climate is like, a description of the geography, and a discussion of the role of humans in your natural area.
2. Discuss the threats facing your natural area. Is climate change causing problems there? Is there a problem with habitat loss? Is pollution causing problems there? Are humans or organizations a threat? What else affects your area?
3. Describe how these threats facing your area affect other natural areas as well.
4. Discuss solutions to the threats facing your natural area. What solutions have been presented by those working in the field? What solutions can you think of, based on what you know?
5. Choose one way you can help save your natural area. Try it out and record data to show how your changes will have an impact. Collect trash there. Start recycling for a week. Volunteer to weed out invasive plants. Reduce the amount of time you spend in the car for a week. Is your house drafty? Look into ways to reduce the loss of heat/cool air and try one out. Reduce the amount you use the heater or air conditioning by increasing or decreasing the setting a few degrees. What else can you think of to do? This must be a change in your habits from before so you can record data on the impact your change had.
   a. Discuss why you chose the method to help that you did and how it went.
   b. Present the data you collected from before and after the change to show the impact your change had.
   c. Is this something you could continue to do? What would be the impact on the environment if you did continue to implement this change?

Requirements:

- Your written paper should be five to seven pages in length, not counting the title and reference pages, which you must include.
You need to cite at least 10 sources for this assignment, outside of the textbook. Six of these sources must come from academic journals. The CSU-Global Library is a great place to find resources.

Your paper must be formatted according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.

If you need assistance with your writing style, start with the links under the Research Help and Writing Help tabs on the CSU-Global Library’s homepage.

In addition to the paper, you also need to complete a pamphlet (this is worth 100 points). This pamphlet can be aimed at any audience of your choosing. The purpose of the pamphlet is to educate your audience about the issues your species is facing and motivate them to help! Make sure you use plenty of properly cited images. Support your pamphlet with at least two references.

Course Policies

Course Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Discussion Participation</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Opening Exercises</td>
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<td>Live Classroom</td>
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<td>Mastery Exercises</td>
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<td>Critical Thinking Assignments</td>
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<td>35%</td>
<td>Final Portfolio Project</td>
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Grading Scale and Policies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90.0 – 94.9</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>86.7 – 89.9</td>
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<td>83.3 – 86.6</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>80.0 – 83.2</td>
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<td>70.0 – 74.9</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60.0 – 69.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59.9 or below</td>
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</table>

In-Classroom Policies

For information on late work and incomplete grade policies, please refer to our In-Classroom Student Policies and Guidelines or the Academic Catalog for comprehensive documentation of CSU-Global institutional policies.

Academic Integrity

Students must assume responsibility for maintaining honesty in all work submitted for credit and in any other work designated by the instructor of the course. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, reusing /re-purposing your own work (see CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements for percentage of repurposed work that can be used in an assignment), unauthorized possession of academic materials, and unauthorized collaboration. The CSU-Global Library provides information on how students can avoid plagiarism by understanding what it is and how to use the Library and Internet resources.

Citing Sources with APA Style

All students are expected to follow the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements when citing in APA (based on the APA Style Manual, 6th edition) for all assignments. For details on CSU-Global APA style, please review the APA resources within the CSU-Global Library under the “APA Guide & Resources” link. A link to this document should also be provided within most assignment descriptions in your course.

Disability Services Statement

CSU–Global is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Any student with a documented disability requesting academic accommodations should contact the Disability Resource
Coordinator at 720-279-0650 and/or email ada@CSUGlobal.edu for additional information to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Netiquette
Respect the diversity of opinions among the instructor and classmates and engage with them in a courteous, respectful, and professional manner. All posts and classroom communication must be conducted in accordance with the student code of conduct. Think before you push the Send button. Did you say just what you meant? How will the person on the other end read the words?

Maintain an environment free of harassment, stalking, threats, abuse, insults or humiliation toward the instructor and classmates. This includes, but is not limited to, demeaning written or oral comments of an ethnic, religious, age, disability, sexist (or sexual orientation), or racist nature; and the unwanted sexual advances or intimidations by email, or on discussion boards and other postings within or connected to the online classroom.

If you have concerns about something that has been said, please let your instructor know.