

INSTRUCTORS: Dr. Paul Doherty Dr. Kate Huyvaert
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 OFFICE HOURS: After class or by appointment

LECTURES: Monday 5:00-5:50 pm in 107 Wagar (**Subject to change**)
 FIELD TRIPS: See details below.

WEB PAGE: Canvas (<http://help.canvas.colostate.edu/login.aspx>)

PREREQUISITES: Permission of the instructor. Although not required, courses such as FW 260, NR 220, LIFE 220, LIFE 320, FW 455 would be useful background.

TEXT & READINGS: *Required readings via the web or library reserve.*

REGISTRATION: Registration for this class is through CSU Education Abroad:
https://studioabroad.colostate.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=11468

Course Objectives: Students in this course will 1) learn about the natural history of the fish and wildlife species unique to Baja California Sur (BCS); 2) understand the wildlife management and conservation history in BCS; 3) identify common, and contrasting, wildlife management practices between the US and BCS; 4) Integrate wildlife ecology principles into management actions in BCS.

Student Evaluation & Grades: Approximate Distribution of Points by Percentages

Attendance, participation, preparedness	30%
Assignments (written reports, oral reports, group projects)	30%
Midterm exam	20%
Final report	20%

Letter grades are assigned as follows and plus/minus grading may be used:

A (90% or higher), B (80 -89%), C (73- 79%), D (60 - 72%), F (59% or lower)

Class Meetings, Field Trips, Expectations:

The class will meet 1 hour/week throughout fall semester in preparation for the trip to BCS. We will also meet for one class upon return. Field trips will consist of a faculty member(s) and students traveling together to Baja California Sur, Mexico, over winter break. You must attend all required field trips and classes. The only rare exceptions are for catastrophes, truly beyond your control--hospitalization, imprisonment, family death--and then I must be notified prior to the trip/meeting, unless that is truly impossible.

Assignments will generally involve background research, presentation as well as personal essays. Some assignments will be individual; others will be group-based. Late work will only be accepted within 24 hours from the due date and will be penalized 20%.

Expect quizzes to cover recent lecture, field trip, or reading material. I expect you to come to class prepared, to interact in discussions, and to ask questions.

This course will adhere to the CSU Academic Integrity Policy as found in the General Catalog - 1.6, pages 7-9. (<http://www.catalog.colostate.edu/Content/files/2012/FrontPDF/1.6POLICIES.pdf>) and the Student Conduct Code (<http://www.conflictresolution.colostate.edu/conduct-code>). At a minimum, violations will result in a grading penalty in this course and possibly a report to the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services.

Student Conduct: “Colorado State University expects students to maintain standards of personal integrity that are in harmony with the educational goals of the institution; to observe national, state, and local laws, and University regulations; and to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people” (Student Rights and Responsibilities). “...The University recognizes the right of all students to engage in discussion, to exchange thought and opinion, and to speak, write, or print freely on any subject in accordance with the guarantees of Federal or State constitutions”.

Classroom behavior and discourse should reflect the values of respect and civility. Classroom disruption by students constitutes a serious breach of University behavioral expectations. Faculty members are encouraged to respond to behaviors that are disruptive to the academic environment, and they may require students to leave the class pending discussion and resolution of the concerns. Students may be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs for possible university disciplinary action including suspension, dismissal or expulsion and/or the campus police summoned in serious cases of disruptive behavior. The above information is covered in the Students Rights and Responsibilities section of the “Academic Program Guide” (CSU General Catalog) and the “Students Rights and Responsibilities” handbook available from the V.P. of Student Affairs.

Syllabus

Tentative Lecture Schedule (starting first week of fall semester 2014)

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topic</i>
1	Biogeography of Baja California Sur: Peninsulas/islands
2	Biogeography of Baja California Sur: tropics, migratory animal connections
3	Wildlife conservation history of Baja California Sur: wildlife collections, harvest
4	Wildlife conservation history of Baja California Sur: economy, ecotourism, development
5	Fisheries and sustainability
6	Sport fishing, overfished stocks, threatened and endangered fish species
7	Marine mammals - whales
8	Marine mammals - sea lions
9	Marine birds
10	Marine conservation planning
11	Coastal/estuary wildlife
12	Coastal/estuary conservation planning and management issues
13	Desert wildlife
14	Mountain wildlife
15	Upland conservation planning and management issues
16	13 day trip to Baja California Sur over winter break; 1 additional meeting in Ft Collins upon return

Tentative Schedule for Trip to Baja California Sur – starting January 4, 2015:

<i>Day</i>	<i>Activity</i>
Day 1-2	Students meet faculty members and Todos Santos Eco Adventure staff in the San Jose del Cabo (SJD) airport and transfer to the Marine Turtle Research Center. The Center conducts turtle nest monitoring at a primary nesting beach on the Pacific Coast. Marine turtle biology, conservation and habitat preservation will be the focus of our visit with the opportunity for students to release hatchling sea turtles.
Day 3	While in Todos Santos and local vicinity, students will visit the Todos Santos estuary – a critically imperiled freshwater habitat that is home to the endangered Belding's Yellowthroat. The group will meet local conservationists; learn about the local bird species and estuarine habitat. The students will learn and think about a management plan for the estuary.
Day 4-6	Transfer to La Paz to explore the wildlife and management issues in the Sea of Cortez. While there, the group will take a boat to Espiritu Santo Island and be instructed in the use of sea kayaks. By kayak, the group will explore and experience inshore marine and island ecosystems. Students and faculty members will also visit offshore islands to visit marine bird nesting colonies and learn about marine ecology.
Day 7	Take a motor launch to visit a large sea lion colony and learn about this marine mammal and the tropical fish in the area. Students will have the opportunity to snorkel to be able to experience these animals in their natural habitat.
Day 8-9	Visit the Sierra de la Laguna Biosphere Reserve on an overnight trip. The group will explore the mountains and uplands that are home to an incredible diversity of plants and wildlife with many endemic species (e.g., Belding's yellowthroat, Cape pygmy owl, Xantus hummingbird).
Day 10	Visit the desert to explore cactus communities. Students will focus on the cardón cactus community and understand how important this keystone species is for many wildlife species.
Day 11-12	The group will conclude the 2 weeks of learning with a focus on implementing a management plan for the estuary, and/or visiting a Pacific coast beach to understand tide pools and to observe whales.
Day 13	Return to US.