

## COURSE POLICIES

### NR 440 APPLICATIONS IN CONSERVATION PLANNING FALL, 2017

**Tuesday & Thursday 8:00 – 9:15 am**  
**103 Behavioral Sciences Building**  
**CRN 72575 Section 001 3 Credits**  
**CRN 72576 Section R01 0 Credits**

**Instructor**

Jim Wurz

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**Office Hrs.** Tuesday 10:00-11:30 am or by appt.

### Introduction

All of us develop and implement plans on a daily basis, although most of this planning occurs in the background of our conscious minds. In contrast, conservation planning to confront intensified human use of land and water, as well as the accelerated loss of the biological diversity on which we depend, requires a purposeful, logical, and systematic process. The stakes are high, and the plans we create are important. They provide a rational structure that guides both long-term and everyday management decisions, and they allow us to prioritize the allocation of limited resources in an efficient manner.

In this course we will take a broad view of conservation planning to include not only the protection of critical biophysical resources, but also the creation and maintenance of the systems that allow humans to seek a harmonious coexistence with those resources. As such, we will explore an array of conservation strategies ranging from publicly owned and managed protected areas to incentives and regulations aimed at protecting and enhancing land and community health across a broader mosaic of ownership patterns and land uses.

While there is a great deal of variation in the scope, scale, and specific details of different conservation planning processes, all good planning adheres to a certain logic. We will explore that logical progression and compare several different planning approaches, always with a focus on the human and natural elements that facilitate landscape-level conservation.

### Course Objectives

Course participants will:

- Understand the rationale that underlies most conservation planning processes, the essential elements of those processes, and their variations;
- Become familiar with the diversity of legal and institutional structures that define the conservation planning environment;
- Understand the importance and challenges of involving the public and other stakeholders in conservation planning, as well as specific techniques for encouraging that participation;
- Understand and be able to describe a range of public and private regulatory and non-regulatory strategies for enhancing land and community health;

- Become familiar with the variety of available information resources that can inform conservation planning and decision-making.
- Develop the ability to collaborate on, and contribute to, the development of effective conservation planning processes, both as professionals and as committed citizens.

### Educational Philosophy

The basis of a good class is the community that is created within it. Let's work together to build a supportive shared learning community in the classroom. Please ask questions, participate, and think critically. The class format will be a combination of lecture, group discussions, and practical exercises. Your attendance and participation are expected. Also, the course schedule is tentative, and it is your responsibility to keep track of changes announced in class or on the Canvas site. Finally, please share your suggestions about how to improve the class or help you learn.

### Communication

I encourage communication during and outside of class. ***You should always feel free to disagree with anything I say.*** I will challenge ideas (not people) in a respectful way, and expect that you will do the same. Diverse opinions on relevant issues, clearly articulated and supported by logical thought, are encouraged. Outside of class, please feel free to contact me in person, by phone, or by email with any questions or concerns.

### Canvas

This class will have a Canvas site, which will contain important links to class material (syllabus, lectures, readings, and tests), as well as serve as the main course communication tool outside of class. *Be sure to set your Canvas notification preferences to be forwarded to your regular email account, cell phone, etc.*

### Readings

There is no textbook for the course. While most of the assigned course readings will be posted on the Canvas site, some planning documents will be found by searching agency websites. A collection of supplemental hard-copy materials will also be available in my office for you to consult.

### Grading and Assignments

2 Tests	@ 100 Points	200	90- 100% = A
1 Public Meeting assignment	@ 30 Points	30	80-89% = B
1 Conservation Easement assignment	@ 70 Points	70	70-79% = C 60-69% = D
Homework, quizzes, in-class exercises, participation, etc.	~ 100 Points	~100	< 60% = See me <i>before this happens.</i>
Total points		~400	

### Tests

The ability to memorize and regurgitate facts is of limited value in this field. Therefore, to the extent possible, tests will be designed to assess your ability to understand the material and relate it to the larger context of natural resource management. You can expect the tests to be take-home and to include a variety of formats (essays, short answers, multiple choice, and fill in the blank, etc.). If you require special testing arrangements, please let me know and I'll be happy to help.

***All material mentioned in class, as well as all material from the assigned readings (whether mentioned in class or not), is fair game for the tests.***

## Major Assignments

There are two major assignments in the course: a Public Meeting assignment and a Conservation Easement assignment. Detailed descriptions of these assignments will be made available.

## Quizzes

Quizzes will be brief, *unannounced*, and based on material from the previous classes or readings. Each quiz will be worth a maximum of 5 points. There is no make-up for missed quizzes.

## Class Exercises and Homework

Class exercises and homework will be brief and, in the case of class exercises, *unannounced*. Their purpose is to encourage you to build your base of planning knowledge and to critically process course materials in a meaningful way. Each exercise will be worth a maximum of 10 points. If you miss a class exercise or homework assignment, you have one week to communicate with me about a possible make-up. I will assign you a suitable make-up assignment, which will be worth a maximum of 5 points.

## Attendance

As mentioned earlier, I expect your attendance and participation in class. You may find the 8:00 am class time challenging. *This is not a valid excuse for missing class or arriving late.* Most of you are in your final year of undergraduate studies, and if you haven't already developed the habit of dependable attendance, now is the time to do it. That said, I would rather have you come late than not come at all. Just be considerate of your fellow students and minimize the disruption you cause. Be aware that if you arrive late or miss class more than once, I will arrange a meeting with you so we can explore strategies for you to be dependable. If you need to be absent, it is your responsibility to initiate communication with me about course content or announcements you missed. I also strongly encourage you to speak with fellow students about borrowing notes, etc.

## Student Athletes / Special Needs / Etc.

Students with university-approved circumstances that require flexibility in due dates, testing environments, etc., should let me know as soon as possible and bring me the appropriate letter.

## Academic Integrity

This course will adhere to the CSU Academic Integrity Policy as found in the General Catalog (<http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/policies/students-responsibilities/#academic-integrity>). At a minimum, violations will result in a grading penalty in this course and a report to the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services. We will discuss academic integrity further in class.

## Questions / Concerns / Suggestions

I will always find time to assist you outside of class regarding course material, grades, or any other matter. Please talk to me during the semester if you're unclear about a topic, concerned about your grade, etc. If you find yourself having difficulty with the course, for any reason, please do not wait until the end of the semester to contact me. Please contact me early and often, and I'll do my best to help or help you find someone who can. You can contact me in person, by phone, or by email.

## Crisis Situations

Student Case Management (<http://www.studentcasemanagement.colostate.edu/home>, 491-8051) provides crisis prevention and intervention services in difficult situations (medical, mental health, behavioral, personal or family crisis, illness, injury, etc.). Student Case Managers consult with students, faculty, staff, families, and providers to offer guidance on the next best steps.

There may be times when you become concerned about a CSU student or employee. If so, [Tell Someone](#). Call 491-1350 or use the [Online Referral Form](#). *If you believe a member of the campus community is in imminent danger of self-harm or harming others, immediately contact CSU police by calling 911 or the department's non-emergency number at 491-6425.*

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**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

***Important Note: As the title indicates, this schedule is only a guideline and is subject to change. It is your responsibility to keep track of schedule changes, whether announced on Canvas or in class.***

Week	Date	Description	Readings & Assignments
1	Tuesday Aug. 22	Course Introduction and Logistics	<b>Note:</b> Unless otherwise stated, all readings are available on Canvas.  <b>Read</b> Course Policies
	Thursday Aug. 24	Introduction to Conservation Planning Livable communities	<b>Homework: Property description assignment on Canvas</b>
2	Tuesday Aug. 29	Livable communities continued	<b>Public meeting assignment on Canvas</b>
	Thursday Aug. 31	Basic concepts of conservation planning	<b>Property description assignment due in class</b>
3	Tuesday Sep. 5	Basic concepts of conservation planning, cont.	<b>Read</b> Conservation Planning Goals
	Thursday Sep. 7	Basic concepts of conservation planning, cont.	<b>Study</b> 1)FC Org Chart and 2)LC Org Chart

Week	Date	Description	Readings & Assignments
4	Tuesday Sep. 12	Historic and legal context of conservation planning	<b>Read</b> 1)Local Govt. LU Decision Structures and 2)Comprehensive Plans
	Thursday Sep. 14	Historic and legal context of conservation planning continued	<b>Read</b> 1)Typical Land Use Code Contents and 2)Standards for All Developments
5	Tuesday Sep. 19	Historic and legal context of conservation planning continued	<b>Read</b> 1)Development Review Process Description and 2)Land Division Review Process
	Thursday Sep. 21	Authority for conservation planning	
6	Tuesday Sep. 26	Authority for conservation planning continued	<b>Read</b> Executive Summary of <i>Our Lands Our Future Final Report</i>
	Thursday Sep. 28	Financing conservation	<b>Test 1 on Canvas</b>
7	Tuesday Oct. 3	Financing conservation continued	
	Thursday Oct. 5	Types of plans and their structures	<b>Test 1 Due in Class</b>
8	Tuesday Oct. 10	Types of plans and their structures continued	<b>Read</b> pp. 4-17 (pp. 7-20 of the pdf) in <i>Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation</i>
	Thursday Oct. 12	Hand back and discuss Test 1	
9	Tuesday Oct. 17	Public participation in the planning process	<b>Read</b> Appendices 3, 4, and 5 pp. 114-130 (pp. 119-135 of the pdf) in the <i>Soapstone Prairie Natural Area Management Plan</i>
	Thursday Oct. 19	No class	
10	Tuesday Oct. 24	No class	
	Thursday Oct. 26	Strategies for ecosystem conservation	<b>Conservation easement assignment on Canvas</b>
11	Tuesday Oct. 31	Strategies for ecosystem conservation continued	

Week	Date	Description	Readings & Assignments
	Thursday Nov. 2	Conservation easements	<b>Read</b> Benefits of Private Land Conservation
12	Tuesday Nov. 7	Conservation easements continued	
	Thursday Nov. 9	Conservation easements continued	
13	Tuesday Nov. 14	Finish conservation easements	
	Thursday Nov. 16	Potentially destructive projects and adaptive management, planning, and mitigation	
	Saturday Nov. 18	Please don't show up for class today. It's Saturday.	<b>Conservation easement assignment due on Canvas</b>
14	<b>Thanksgiving Break Nov. 18-26</b>		
15	Tuesday Nov. 28	The politics of land conservation at the local level: respecting both property rights and community rights.	<b>Read</b> pp 1-16 in <i>Takings Law in Plain English</i> by Duerksen and Roddewig.
	Thursday Nov. 30	Property vs. community rights continued	<b>Public meeting assignment due on Canvas</b>
16	Tuesday Dec. 5	Additional conservation planning topics and catch up as needed	<b>Test 2 on Canvas</b>
	Thursday Dec. 7	Final Comments and review	
17	<b>Final Exam Period Tuesday December 12 6:20 – 8:20 pm</b>		<b>Test 2 due at 6:20 pm</b>