INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Robert C. Dowler  
OFFICE: Room 020, Cavness Science Bldg.  
TELEPHONE: 325/486-6639  
E-MAIL: robert.dowler@angelo.edu  
OFFICE HOURS: MWF 9-10; TTh 10-11; other times by appointment. Any modifications will be posted on my office door.  
       Kolbert, Elizabeth. 2014. The Sixth Extinction. Picador, NY.  
       Readings from other sources may be assigned for quizzes throughout the semester.  

OTHER REQUIRED MATERIAL:  
We will be using Top Hat Pro (www.tophat.com) for class participation. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message. You can visit the Top Hat Overview (https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Getting-Started-with-Top-Hat) within the Top Hat Success Center which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system. An email invitation will be sent to you by email. Note: our Course Join Code is 837962. Top Hat Pro may require a paid subscription, and a full breakdown of all subscription options available can be found here: www.tophat.com/pricing.  

Should you require assistance with Top Hat Pro at any time please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491. Top Hat will be used to take attendance, present class material, and administer quizzes.  

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: The primary goal of this course is to give an overview of conservation biology with current ideas on the state of problems and potential solutions to the worldwide loss of biodiversity. Students successfully completing this course should have a broad understanding of conservation biology, the meaning of biodiversity, an appreciation for the complexity of issues in conservation biology and an understanding of proposed solutions for dealing with a global loss of biodiversity.  

METHODS OF ASSESSING STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Student Learning Outcomes will be assessed as multiple choice, matching, or discussion questions on examinations.  

TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE--TOPICS AND READINGS MAY VARY  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK OF</th>
<th>LECTURE TOPIC</th>
<th>TEXT CHAPTER</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17 AUG</td>
<td>Introduction; state of planet Earth</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 AUG</td>
<td>Origins of conservation biology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 AUG</td>
<td>The concept of biodiversity</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 SEP</td>
<td>Global patterns and drivers of biodiversity</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 SEP</td>
<td>Value of biodiversity</td>
<td>5, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 SEP</td>
<td>Ecological economics; EXAM 1-25 SEPTEMBER</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
28 SEP  Extinction as a threat to biodiversity; Habitat loss 8, 9
5 OCT  Overexploitation, Invasive alien species 10, 11
12 OCT  Climate Change 12
19 OCT  Species level conservation 13
26 OCT  Community and ecosystem conservation; EXAM II-30 OCTOBER 14
2 NOV  Landscape scale conservation 15
9 NOV  Design of protected areas 16
16 NOV  Ex situ conservation: zoos and botanical gardens 16

MONDAY 23 NOVEMBER  1:00 – 3:00 P.M.  FINAL EXAM

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

ATTENDANCE:  Attendance in class is required and daily attendance records will be kept for administrative purposes. Because lectures emphasize the material covered on exams, those students that miss classes usually do worse on exams and in the course than those students who attend all classes.

GRADING: The course grade will be based on two semester exams, grades on class assignments or quizzes, and a comprehensive final. At this time, I am planning to administer tests in class; however there may be a remote option as necessary.

EXAM I .......................... 100
EXAM II ........................... 100
QUIZZES /ASSIGNMENTS ....... 150
COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM .... 150
TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE ........ 500

A = 450 - 500  B = 400 - 449  C = 350 - 399  D = 300 - 349  F = BELOW 300

STATEMENT FOR SYNCHRONOUS REMOTE SESSIONS

To maintain academic quality while accommodating social distancing needs this semester, this course will use a split delivery model that combines face-to-face teaching with remote instruction.

The goal is to provide face-to-face instruction to students who want to return to campus, while also allowing students who may need to learn remotely to participate via virtual class sessions.

How Does It Work?
This course is in a classroom (CAV 200) large enough to maintain social distancing during lectures. For those attending remotely, the lecture will be live on Collaborate in Blackboard, and will also be recorded for any student to review at a later time.

Please refer to this Health and Safety web page for updated information about campus guidelines as they relate to the COVID-19 pandemic.

WEEKLY QUIZZES:  There will be 11 15-point quizzes during the semester with the low grade dropped. Quizzes will usually be given on Wednesday of each week (except exam weeks) over readings, including Aldo Leopold’s A Sand County Almanac, Kolbert’s The Sixth Extinction and selected chapters in the text, and readings in the current literature. Details will be given in class.

MAKE-UP EXAMS:  Make-up exams will be given only in situations which absolutely preclude class attendance. You will be asked to provide acceptable documentation for any absence causing you to miss an exam. Please contact me as soon as possible after missing an exam. Makeup exams may have a different format than regular exams.
General Policies Related to This Course

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- Angelo State University Student Handbook
- Angelo State University Catalog

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

The College of Science and Engineering adheres to the university’s Statement of Academic Integrity.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the Student Disability Services website. The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dallas Swafford
Director of Student Disability Services
Office of Student Affairs
325-942-2047
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu
Houston Harte University Center, Room 112

Incomplete Grade Policy

It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 Grading Procedures for more information.

Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day for more information.

Title IX at Angelo State University

The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance.

Students are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU’s Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator at:

Michelle Boone, J.D.
You may also file a report online 24/7 at www.angelo.edu/incident-form.

If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the University Health Clinic and Counseling Center at 325-942-2173 or the ASU Crisis Helpline at 325-486-6345.

For more information about Title IX in general you may visit www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

Required Use of Masks/Facial Coverings by Students

As a member of the Texas Tech University System, Angelo State University has adopted the mandatory Facial Covering Policy to ensure a safe and healthy classroom experience. Current research on the COVID-19 virus suggests there is a significant reduction in the potential for transmission of the virus from person to person by wearing a mask/facial covering that covers the nose and mouth areas. Therefore, in compliance with the university policy students in this class are required to wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after class. Faculty members may also ask you to display your daily screening badge as a prerequisite to enter the classroom. You are also asked to maintain safe distancing practices to the best of your ability. For the safety of everyone, any student not appropriately wearing a mask/facial covering will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. The student will be responsible to make up any missed class content or work. Continued non-compliance with the Texas Tech University System Policy may result in disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct.

Modifications to the Syllabus

This syllabus, including grade evaluation and course schedule, is subject to modification. In particular, the COVID-19 pandemic may require significant changes in course delivery and content on potentially short notice.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions of the Student Handbook. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is submitted, plagiarism, and collusion. University policy on this issue is discussed in article 5.3 of the Student Handbook. My policy for cheating on an exam is to give a grade of zero on the exam and to provide your name and details of the incident to the department head. You should understand that your loss of credibility on any future (or past) work is the worst penalty for cheating on an exam.

GRADUATE STUDENT REQUIREMENTS: Graduate students who take this course will be required to do an additional project dealing with some aspect of conservation biology. This may take the form of a conservation research project related to their thesis, preparation of a proposal for an area of research in conservation biology, or preparation of a classroom activity to help students better understand some aspect of the course. This project will be worth an additional 100 points so the final grade will be based on a total of 600 points.

1 https://blackboard.angelo.edu/
2 https://www.angelo.edu/covid-19/returning-to-campus/health-and-safety.php
3 https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/
4 https://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/
5 https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php
6 https://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/
7 https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures
8 https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of
9 https://www.angelo.edu/services/title-ix/
x http://www.texastech.edu/downloads/ttus-policy-face-coverings.pdf