

CURSO	:	Latin American Biodiversity Conservation
TRADUCCIÓN	:	Conservación Biológica en Latinoamérica
SIGLAS	:	VIL622
REQUISITOS	:	Introductory ecology course or environmental science course.
RESTRICCIONES	:	AUTHORIZATION VILLARRICA CAMPUS
CONECTOR	:	-
TIPO	:	Lectures
CALIFICACIÓN	:	From 1 to 7
DISCIPLINA	:	Forestry Science
PALABRAS CLAVE	:	Conservation, wildlife, protected areas, ecosystems, biodiversity, fauna.

## I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is oriented to introduce the discipline of conservation biology in Latin America. Students will be able to explain how biodiversity is distributed in Latin America and what are the main challenges to conserve biodiversity. Particularly, the students will be able to discuss and explain the main features of Chilean ecosystems and the distribution and features of protected areas and wildlife.

## II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, the students will be able to:

- Describe the main ecosystems in Latin America
- Understand the current challenges that biodiversity faces in Latin America
- Compare between the situation of wildlife and protected areas of North America and South America.
- Be aware of the role of indigenous people in biodiversity conservation.
- Describe the main attributes of terrestrial ecosystems of Chile and particularly La Araucanía region (temperate rainforests).
- Synthesize the main challenges that faces biodiversity management in a regional scale proportion.
- Recognize and apply the species and ecosystems qualification criteria of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.
- Interpret the meaning of the legislation related to Chilean protected areas and hunting Act.
- Debate on the factors for and against of the sustainable use of wildlife
- Compare and explain with applied examples the impacts of invasive species between North and South America
- Learn about the work of Latin American biodiversity specialists.

## III. CONTENTS

First part:

- Ecosystems and Biodiversity of Latin America:
  - o Biodiversity and natural ecosystems analysis from its ancestral uses, the Colony and current state.
  - o Overview of attributes and status of protected areas in Latin America.
  - o Study of the trajectory of the work of leading experts on conservationism of the Region.

Second part:

- Biodiversity and Ecosystems of Chile:
  - o General description of Chileans ecosystems.
  - o Distribution and attributes of flora, fauna and protected areas in the country.
  - o Main challenges for biodiversity conservation in Chile.

Third part:

- Biodiversity Conservation in La Araucanía:
  - o Araucanía wildlife features.
  - o Impact of invasive species, fire and land use changes over biodiversity.

#### IV. METHODOLOGY FOR LEARNING

The contents of the course will be presented in lectures. Required reading will be suggested. Students will be asked to write essays and present 10 minutes talks on topics related to each section. In addition, there will be field trips to know the Region of La Araucanía and some case studies in protected areas will be discussed. This will be supply by videos and interviews with leading experts under videoconferencing.

#### V. EVALUATION

- o Oral presentations (3 in total) : 30%
- o Written group work (3 essays) : 30%
- o Final oral test (individually) : 40%

#### VI. Reading sources (suggested)

Austral ecology	Journal of Ecology (virtual issue: 2013)
Ecología Austral	Conservation Biology
Revista Chilena de Historia Natural	Biological Conservation
Studies in Neotropical Fauna and The Environment	Journal of Wildlife Management
Mountain Research and Development	Oryx
Journal of Applied Ecology (virtual issue on South America: June 2012)	Ethnoecology
Keywords Leading experts on conservationism	Plos One

Alonso Aguirre, Jon Paul Rodriguez, Gerardo Ceballos, Rodrigo Medellin, Cristián Estades, Andres Novaro, Juliana Vianna, Rurik List, Javier Simmonetti, Pablo Marquet, Gloria Montenegro, Alejandro Grajal, Fabián Jaksic,

**Lectures:**

Articles and chapters of books will be available during the course as well as digital material.

**List of classes and topics**

- ✿ Latin American conservation: Introduction
- ✿ Latin American ecosystems and Chilean ecological features
- ✿ Natural history in Latin America and Chile
- ✿ Ecosystems and wildlife in Chile: Biogeographic approach
- ✿ Ecosystems and wildlife in Chile: Current challenges
- ✿ Protected areas and biodiversity in Chile
- ✿ Citizen science and wildlife surveys
- ✿ Endangered species in Chile
- ✿ Invasive species in Chile
- ✿ Sustainable use of wildlife in Chile
- ✿ Ethics and Conservation
- ✿ The Fauna Australis research program in Chile
- ✿ Seminar and poster presentations

*Draft: Final Copy Will Be Provided On-Site*