

ESP 4305 Land Conservation Techniques – Syllabus – Fall 2019
4 Credits
Wednesdays, 10:00 am – 11:40 am, Boyd Science Center Room 235
Fridays, 10:00 am – 1:40 pm, Boyd Science Center Room 225 & Field Trips
(See details below for Friday schedule)

Course Description:

Conserving land is a common technique for protecting natural resources, critical habitats, providing recreational opportunities, and maintain our forest lands. This course explores the numerous, diverse reasons for conserving land as well as various mechanisms for conserving land. Students learn techniques and methods for land conservation and associated management of conserved areas. Field trips to conserved sites, meetings with land conservation professionals, and case studies provide first hand examples. Additional course fee is required.

Objectives:

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Explain approaches and methods for conserving land;
- Articulate the variety of reasons why land is conserved and different techniques used to achieve conservation goals;
- Identify the benefits derived from conservation lands;
- Describe the role of multiple organizations in land conservation;
- Explain the role of stewardship and management in land conservation;
- Describe how land conservation is funded;
- Summarize how professionals in the field of land conservation work and make decisions about land conservation.
- Analyze land conservation projects and identify what is being conserved, the conservation method used, and the organizations involved.

Instructor:

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Office hours: Thursdays, 10 am – 12 pm, and by appointment

Course Topics & Schedule:

- Lectures: Wednesdays & Fridays
- Field Trips & Labs: Fridays, 10 am – 1:40 pm

The course schedule, topics, and reading assignments are listed below. Students are expected to attend all field trips. Readings and assignments will be given each week in class and/or on the course Moodle site. The schedule and weekly topics may change as the course progresses and to accommodate field trips and guest speaker schedules.

Week	Date	Topic
1	Aug 28 Wednesday 10 -11:40 am	Course introduction & overview. Why do we conserve land? Who conserves land? How is land conserved? What do we do with conserved land?
	Aug 30 Friday 10 am – 12 pm	
2	Sept 4 Wednesday 10 -11:40 am	Conservation Planning – what is conserved & why?
	Sept 6 Friday 10 am – 12 pm	
3	Sept 11 Wednesday 10 -11:40 am	Who conserves land? USFS & White Mountain National Forest background & Field trip prep Friday, Sept 13, Field trip #1
	Sept 13 Friday 10 am – 1:40 pm	
4	Sept 18 Wednesday 10 -11:40 am	Discussion about Field trip #1 Basics of property & ownership Conservation Easements
	Sept 20 Friday 10 am – 12 pm	
5	Sept 25 Wednesday 10 -11:40 am	Other methods for land conservation Review for exam
	Sept 27 Friday 10 am – 12 pm	
6	Oct 2 Wednesday 10 -11:40 am	Wednesday, Oct 2: Exam Friday, Oct 4: Field trip #2
	Oct 4 Friday 10 am – 1:40 pm	
7	Oct 9 Wednesday 10 -11:40 am	Discussion about Field Trip #2 Introduction to management & stewardship Friday, Oct 11: NO CLASS
	Oct 11 Friday	

8	Oct 16 Wednesday 10 -11:40 am	Management & stewardship
	Oct 18 Friday, 10 am – 12 pm	
9	Oct 23 Wednesday 10 -11:40 am	Basics of forest management & best management practices Friday, Oct 25: Field Trip #3
	Oct 25 Friday 10 am – 1:40 pm	
10	Oct 30 Wednesday 10 -11:40 am	Discussion about Field trip #3 Review of ownership, easements, management, stewardship Funding for land conservation
	Nov 1 Friday 10 am – 12 pm	
11	Nov 6 Wednesday 10 -11:40 am	Land Conservation Projects – steps & checklists
	Nov 8 Friday 10 am – 12 pm	
12	Nov 13 Wednesday 10 -11:40 am	Issues in land conservation Friday, Nov 15: No Class
	Nov 15 Friday	
13	Nov 20 Wednesday 10 -11:40 am & 7 pm – 9 pm	Issues in land conservation Wednesday, Nov 20: Why do we Hike? Panel discussion, 7 pm – 9 pm, Boyd 144 Friday, Nov 22: Student presentations
	Nov 22 Friday 10 am – 1:40 pm	
14	Nov 27 Wednesday	No class – Thanksgiving break
	Nov 29 Friday	
15	Dec 4 Wednesday 10 -11:40 am	Wednesday, Dec 4: Student Showcase Friday, Dec 6: Course review – Why do we conserve land? Who conserves land? How is land conserved?
	Dec 6 Friday 10 am – 1:40 pm	

16	Dec 9 8 am – 10:30 am	FINAL EXAM
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Field Trips:

All around the region, there are numerous areas of conserved land and we will visit some of them to illustrate a variety of course topics. **Field trips are an integral part of this class and are mandatory.** We will leave on field trips at 10 am and plan to return to campus by 1:40 pm, but occasionally delays might occur. While traveling to and from the field trip sites students are expected to engage in discussion about the course topics. Students should wear appropriate clothing for being outside in wooded areas and potential rough terrain (long pants, boots or sturdy shoes, socks) and bring warm clothes, rain gear, bug and tick spray, sun screen, food, water, and a field notebook.

Course Resources:

There is no required textbook for this course. **However, there will be a lot of reading.** Course readings and resources will be provided on the course Moodle site and assigned each week during the term. Students are expected to complete the readings by the assigned date. In many cases, the resource documents are lengthy and technical. These resources are provided to give students examples of land conservation plans and documents. Students are expected to review the documents to gain an overview of the topic, understand the scope of content, and be able to connect the material to the class topic.

Evaluation:

This class consists of class meetings, field trips, and lab sessions. Student grades will be based on:

Evaluation	% of Grade
Class participation: Students are expected to attend all classes and field trips. Participation includes attendance, completing assigned readings prior to class, applying information in class, and participating in discussions and group activities.	20%
Assignments: There will be papers and assignments throughout the course. Details will be explained in class and on the course Moodle site.	30%
Project & Presentation: Students will research an area of conserved land, address key questions about the land, and present findings to the class. Students may also present at the Student Showcase on Dec. 4.	20%
Exams: There will be one midterm exam and one comprehensive final exam.	30%

Grading scale:

- A = 93-100; A- = 90-92
- B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86, B-=80-82
- C+ = 77-79; C = 73-76; C- = 70-72
- D+ = 67-69, D = 63-66, D- = 60-62
- F = <62

Please review Plymouth State University's Fair Grading Policy at: <https://campus.plymouth.edu/frost-house/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2019/08/PSU-Fair-Grading-Policy.pdf>

Students will be assessed using the rubric below as a guide. Course assignments have additional specific requirements and the grading of an assignment will take into account not only the strengths and weaknesses of the final document or project, but also whether or not other specified requirements have been met, and to what extent they have been met.

Essential Elements	1	2	3
Purpose	Unclear purpose & topic development; vague	Limited expression of purpose; adequate development of topic	Purpose is clearly expressed & topic fully developed
Details	Few relevant details, lacks creativity	Details are adequate & relevant, shows creativity	Details are specific, enhance development & creative
Organization	Poor organization	Logical progression of ideas	Logical & controlled organization throughout
Writing, Style, Grammar, Format, References	Poor sentence structure; Errors in grammar, citations, formatting & writing are distracting	Sentence variety & patterns are appropriate for style & effect; Some errors in grammar, citations, formatting & writing	Sentence variety enhances style & effect; No errors in grammar, citations, formatting & writing
Verbal Communication & Class Participation (in class and online)	Limited participation in discussion; ideas sometimes not well developed	Participates in discussion; ideas developed & communicated clearly	Regularly participates in discussion; listens to others; ideas developed & communicated clearly

Course Policies:

- Students are accountable for meeting all course requirements, which may include both in-class and out-of-class experiences, as well as both individual and group-based activities. Students are expected to attend all regularly scheduled class meetings, including field trips. Absences will only be excused in accordance with the PSU [“Excused Absence Policy.”](#) Students should recognize the importance of participation in class activities and to be aware that grades may be affected by absences.
- Field trips are an integral and required part of this course. Special requirements apply to the trips:
 - Field trips will involve walking on trails over some rough, forested terrain. If you have any physical difficulties, please let the instructor know so accommodations can be made.
 - Please wear appropriate clothing for field trips. Appropriate clothing means long pants appropriate for walking in the woods, hiking boots or shoes (no open-toed shoes), warm clothes (insulated sweater or jacket, wind protection, warm hat), and rain gear. Students are responsible for bringing their own sun screen and bug/tick repellent as well as food and water.
 - Bring a field notebook for taking notes on field trips.
 - Bring a backpack or appropriate bag to carry extra clothing, water, etc.
 - We will meet with guests on several trips. You are a representative of PSU and should give the guest your full attention and respect.

- Travel to and from field trip sites is part of the course and the course policies about cell phone and other electronic devices apply. Students are expected to engage in discussions and work on assignments while traveling to and from the field trip sites.
- Smoking or vaping is not permitted on field trips.
- Please turn your phone off and put away during class time. For field trips, phones are permitted for taking pictures or recording course information only. No texting, social media, or online activity unrelated to the course is permitted in class or on field trips including travel to and from field trip sites.
- Laptops or tablets are permitted to take notes or look up information related to the course. Students may be asked to show evidence of how they are using their laptop or tablet in class.
- Any student that is using their phone, laptop or other electronic device in a way that is disruptive to other students may be asked to leave the class and their absence will count as unexcused and/or 5% may be deducted from the final grade.

Plymouth State University Policies and Procedures:

- **Safety:** Safety is an important issue in all classes. Please review the campus safety information at: <https://campus.plymouth.edu/emergency/>. In particular, know what to do in the event of an active shooter situation to best protect yourself and others.
- **Accessibility:** Plymouth State University is committed to providing students with documented disabilities equal access to all university programs and facilities. If you think you have a disability requiring accommodations, you should contact Campus Accessibility Services (CAS), located in Speare (535-3300) to determine whether you are eligible for such accommodations. Academic accommodations will only be considered for students who have registered with CAS. If you have authorized CAS to electronically deliver a Letter of Accommodations for this course, please communicate with your instructor to review your accommodations.
- **Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity is the foundation of the pursuit of knowledge. All members of the academic community are expected to be dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge in an honest, responsible, respectful, and ethical manner. Every violation of academic integrity is an affront to the academic community. Violations of academic integrity make fair evaluation impossible and cast doubt upon the seriousness with which students accept the responsibility of acquiring an education. Please review the PSU [Academic Integrity Policy](#).
- **Plymouth State University Curtailed Operations Information:** Plymouth State University normally remains open through inclement weather. There may be times, however, when an emergency or extreme weather conditions necessitate a general closing of the University. Please sign up for PSU Alert Emergency Text Messaging. The PSU storm line (603-535-3535) and website post information about curtailed operations.
- **Lamson Library and Learning Commons:** Access to the IT Help Desk is available at 603-535-2929. Log in to MyPlymouth to access all of the Lamson Library and Learning Common resources and services. The Writing Center is located in the lower level of Lamson; the Help Desk in on the Main Floor.