



## The Smithsonian-Mason Semester A “study away” program in Conservation Studies

### Information for Advisors of non-Mason Students

Detailed syllabi with course outcomes are available at: <http://mccs.gmu.edu/courses/>

#### Suggested allocation of credits for students transferring credits from Mason to their home institutions:

CONS 320	Upper division composition or communication
CONS 401	Upper division natural science
CONS 402	Upper division natural science with lab
CONS 410	Upper division social science
CONS 490	Upper division synthesis credit
*CONS 498	Upper division directed internship

CONS 320 (3 cr.) Conservation in Practice. This course promotes active communication and presentation techniques essential to conservation practitioners. Learning is achieved through the exploration of conservation issues from interdisciplinary perspectives. Projects will include written work, presentations, and visual media.

(Includes a semester-long Case Study project that has both an individual research paper that goes through several revisions and a group presentation before a panel of Mason and Smithsonian faculty.)

CONS 401: (3 cr.) Conservation Theory. This course provides an introduction to the field of conservation biology and science-based management of threatened wildlife and habitats. The course will provide the theoretical background for the importance of biodiversity conservation, in situ and ex situ methods of conservation - including protected areas and reproductive research in captive population – and the issue of climate change and its potential conservation impacts. Students will learn the basis of models used to evaluate biodiversity and indicate climate change.

(Includes dynamics of environmental change, climate change, principles of ecological assessment: arthropod and small mammal field techniques)

CONS 402: (4 cr.) Applied Conservation. This course takes an applied scientific approach to the nature of biodiversity and impacts of biodiversity loss, the science behind *ex situ* (e.g. endangered species

breeding programs), and *in situ* conservation (e.g. protected areas). Lecture and laboratory sessions in reproductive physiology, semen collection and preservation, and non-invasive endocrine monitoring are presented. An ecological monitoring lab module will provide students with an introduction to various planning mechanisms and field techniques to assess and monitor species diversity. Students will be exposed to a range of techniques for developing real life conservation and monitoring projects.

(Includes small population management: genetics, endocrine and reproductive lab modules, PHVA plans)

CONS 410 (3 cr.) Human Dimensions in Conservation. This course provides essential sociological and societal perspectives on conservation issues including human wildlife interactions, environmental economics, public policy, environmental values and public opinion, ecological grief, community-based conflict resolution and conservation ethics. Practical exercises include formal debates, discussion groups and workshops as well as directed writings and exams.

(Includes conflict resolution, ecotourism, environmental economics, law and policy.)

CONS 490: (3 cr) Integrated Conservation Strategies. This course facilitates integration of the Smithsonian Mason Semester through directed challenges involving current conservation issues. Students will incorporate the natural and physical science, social, cultural economic and policy aspects of conservation in a summative group case study to be presented at the end of the Semester.

(Synthesis class, includes a semester long portfolio project)

\*CONS 498 (3 cr.) Directed Internship. This course may be available as an option Sp 2010

(Includes formal plan, regular schedule, journal, and assessment).

**We invite your questions.** Please contact Dr. Anne Marchant ([amarchan@gmu.edu](mailto:amarchan@gmu.edu)), Associate Director for the Mason Center for Conservation Studies.