ESF Course Proposal
Committee on Curriculum - ESF Faculty Governance
Office of Instruction & Graduate Studies

This course proposal form should be completed when introducing a new course or a revision of an existing course. The proposal will be reviewed by the Committee on Curriculum, or, in the case of minor revisions, will be approved administratively by the Associate Provost for Instruction.

This Course Proposal must be completed according to the guidelines provided in Course Proposal Form – Instructions and Guidance. Please see the last page of Course Proposal Form – Instructions and Guidance, for instructions on how this Course Proposal should be submitted to the Committee on Curriculum for review.

Date: 02/27/2020

1. Course Information:

1.1 Course Prefix and Number: EFB 413
Course Title: Introduction to Conservation Biology
(If a new or renumbered course, please check with the Registrar regarding the use or reuse of the course number)

1.2 □ This is a New Course.
OR
□ This is a Major Course Revision
OR
☒ This is a Minor Course Revision

If this is a Course Revision, please see Course Proposal Form – Instructions and Guidance to determine if your revision is major or minor. Indicate below the reason(s) for the revision.

(Please check all that apply)
☐ Course Number/Division
☐ Title
☐ Credit hours
☐ Pre- or Co-requisite(s)
☐ Format
☐ Learning Outcomes
☐ Concepts, Content
☐ Catalog Description
☐ Instructional Methods
☐ General Education
☐ Institutional Resources
☒ Semester Offered
☐ Course Inactivation
☐ Course Reactivation

1.3 General Education knowledge and skills area (if applicable): If none, check here ☒

☐ American History
☐ The Arts
☐ Basic Communication
☐ Humanities
☐ Mathematics
☐ Natural Sciences
☐ Other World Civilizations
☐ Social Sciences
☐ Western Civilization
2. Proposer Need Statement:

2.1 Describe why this course (or course revision) is needed to meet current or proposed goals and outcomes of the program or College, and, if a revision, provide an explanation of and justification for the revision. This course is a core requirement for students the Conservation Biology major and a directed elective for those in other majors within EFB and has been for those in Dept. of Sustainable Resources, Environmental Studies and Environmental Science. Revision is change in semester offered is requested to mitigate frequent scheduling conflicts for the bulk of students who are Conservation Biology majors - these conflicts occur in spring semester each year when all three core conservation biology course requirements (EFB 413, 414 and 419) are currently offered. Moving EFB 413 to fall semester will help reduce these conflicts.

2.2 List the pre-requisite or co-requisite courses (taught within the home department or taught by another department) and explain their relationship to the proposed course. Pre-requisite: Genetics (EFB 307) and General Ecology (EFB 320) or equivalent.

2.3 Explain the impact of this course in meeting the goals and outcomes of other Departments/programs (if any). About half of students are Conservation Biology majors, one quarter are other EFB non-Conservation Biology students, and remaining quarter are from elsewhere in ESF (mainly Sustainable Resources, Environmental Science and Environmental Studies) and Syracuse University (2-3 students per semester). Because the course is an elective or directed elective for those programs impacts is expected to be minimal compared to gains for EFB in mitigating scheduling conflicts for the rest of the students enrolled (mainly Conservation Biology, Wildlife Science and Environmental Biology majors).

2.4 If the proposed course is designed to fulfill SUNY General Education Requirements, the Associate Provost for Instruction must review this proposal to ensure that General Education Requirements will be met for the specified knowledge area (See Instructions and Guidance). Please provide an explanation of how this course fulfills SUNY General Education Requirements.

2.5 What are the staffing requirements (instructor, TA, Lab tech, etc.) for this course? If a new course, are there new staffing needs or are there adequate staff members already in place? If a revised course, are there additional staffing needs? Instructor only. No additional staffing needs anticipated.

2.6 What Department (or extra-Department) resources are or will be made available to support the course or course revision? One lecture room sufficient to accommodate typical class size that has varied between 80-120 students per semester.

2.7 Anticipated Enrollment (enter where applicable)

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<th>Semester</th>
<th>Anticipated Enrollment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Semester</td>
<td>90</td>
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<td>Summer Semester</td>
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<td>Spring Semester</td>
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2.8 Anticipated frequency of class meetings. Two 1.5-hr lectures per week.
3. DETAILED COURSE DESCRIPTION

3.1 COURSE IDENTIFICATION AND FORMAT:

3.1.1 Course Prefix and Number: EFB 413
3.1.2 Course Name: Introduction to Conservation Biology
3.1.3 Credit Hours: 3
3.1.4 Semester (check all that apply): Fall ☒ Spring ☐ Summer ☐
3.1.5 Format (check as appropriate): Lecture ☒ Online ☐ Lab ☐ Field ☐
   Other ☐ (explain)
3.1.6 Contact hours per week: 3
3.1.7 Prerequisite(s) – if none, please enter "None" (Be specific, as Upper Division courses and Graduate courses will likely have some pre-requisite knowledge) Genetics (EFB 307) and General Ecology (EFB 320) or equivalent.

3.2 SCOPE:

3.2.1 Level of Instruction (check one, or two if a shared resource course):
   Lower Division ☐ Upper Division ☒
   Beginning Graduate ☐ Advanced Graduate ☐

3.2.2 Relation to curriculum or to other ESF or Syracuse University courses:
   a. Is this a required course? No ☐ Yes ☒.
      If Yes, please list the program(s) for which it is a requirement: Conservation Biology Major
   b. Is this an elective course within your department? No ☐ Yes ☒.
   c. Is enrollment in this course restricted? No ☐ Yes ☒
      If Yes, please explain: Available instructional space.
   d. Are other ESF or SU courses similar or identical to this course? No ☐ Yes ☒.
      If Yes, please identify the courses: BIO 415/615 Conservation Biology (SU)
   e. Is this course a shared resource offering (i.e. is there a graduate or undergraduate concurrent offering)? No ☒ Yes ☐.
      If Yes, what is the course number of the concurrent offering?

3.3 STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Identify the student learning outcomes associated with this course.

Students completing this course will be able to:

1. Explain the multiple dimensions of the biological diversity crisis.

2. Apply conceptual skills to solve problems in biodiversity conservation.

3.4 MAJOR CONCEPTS, PROCESSES or TOOLS:

Rev 05/09/2016
Identify the course content and themes (e.g. Table of Contents) consistent with the learning domains and outcomes.

Biological diversity occurs across a hierarchy of biological organization.

Biological diversity has intrinsic and consumptive value.

Various processes generate and erode biological diversity and do so at different time scales.

The scientific method provides a means to diagnose the factors threatening the biota.

Solutions to the biodiversity crisis are achieved by integrating scientific perspectives with the public policy process.

3.5 INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:

Identify the methods used to meet the course outcomes, as well as the principal instructional methods. This course uses lectures and discussion to meet the course outcomes. Lecture and discussion are about course topics, case studies and scientific papers.

3.6 CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Provide the course description using the precise format to be included in the ESF catalog (i.e. course number and title; format; brief description; semester(s) offered; and pre-/co-requisites). Please do not exceed 1000 characters.

Three hours of lecture and discussion per week. An introduction to the discipline of conservation biology. This course demonstrates the integration of biological science with social, economic, and political perspectives to achieve the goals of biological conservation. Consideration of processes that generate and erode biological diversity. Exposure to complex problem-solving that is typically required in biodiversity conservation. Fall.

3.7 COURSE HISTORY:

Provide the dates of prior approval of this course, and its revision history. In 1998 and 1999 pilot versions of the lecture segment were taught by Therese Donovan as EFB 496 and of the discussion/recitation segment by James Gibbs as EFB 496. Approved by Faculty Action 1/27/00 as EFB 413.

3.7.1 Relationship to current ESF courses

This course is replacing a current ESF course ☐ YES ☒ NO

If NO, then proceed to section 4 below.

If YES, then provide below the number and name of the course to be deactivated and removed from the catalog once this course proposal has been approved:

Course Number (of the course to be replaced)
Course Name (of the course to be replaced)

If the course to be replaced is used by departments other than the department sponsoring this proposal, please indicate below which departments are affected and the date they were notified about the course replacement.

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4. Institutional Impacts:

This section pertains to forecasting institutional resource needs to support the course or course revision. Provide clear statements regarding the needs and current availability (or absence) of resources. Note that, if this is a course revision, only the impacts of the revision should be included.

Staffing needs: One instructor

Classroom resources (e.g. physical facilities in a laboratory, lecture hall, flexible space, academic computing):

For lecture: lecture hall or a classroom that can facilitate occasional group work.

Technology Resources:

Computer and projection capabilities for lecture.

Computing Resources (software licensing, hardware, access):

Digital projection and internet connection capabilities for lecture, Blackboard.

Library Resources (subscriptions, services):

A reserved copy of the textbook. Access to articles from the journal Conservation Biology

Transportation Requirements (budget, fees, fleet vehicles):

None

Forest Properties or Field Practicum Facilities:

None
5. Health and Safety Considerations:

Will any of the conditions or situations outlined below be present in association with the course?  

Yes / No

5.1. Will substances with any of the following properties be used during instruction: flammability, toxicity, corrosivity, reactivity, registered pesticide, legally controlled, or other characteristics with the potential to cause harm or injury?  

☐ / ☑

5.2. Will any physical hazards be present during instruction? (e.g., machines that need safety guards; razor blades or syringes; compressed gases, etc.).  

☐ / ☑

5.3. Will any biological hazards be present during instruction? (e.g., handling animals (rabies or hantavirus); cultures or stocks of infectious agents (fungal spores, viruses, bacteria, etc.).  

☐ / ☑

5.4. Will any radiation hazards be present during instruction? (e.g., radioisotopes, X-rays, ultraviolet rays, lasers, etc.).  

☐ / ☑

5.5. Will any electrical equipment that, due to its design, location, or method of use, pose any threat to safety during instruction? (Give considerable thought to electrical use outdoors, or any potentially wet location.).  

☐ / ☑

5.6. Will there be any personal safety issues related to the class? (e.g., due to time of day or location, at the end of any organized class exercise, will students be in danger of physical assault, etc.).  

☐ / ☑

5.7. Will any students be driving official state or research sponsored land or water vehicles during any class or instructional exercise?  

☐ / ☑

5.8. Will any type of personal protective equipment be necessary during class exercises? (e.g., hard-hats, eye/face protection, hearing protection, hand/foot protection, lab coat, visibility clothing, etc.)  

☐ / ☑

If the answer was "Yes" to any of the HEALTH AND SAFETY questions, please explain:

For lab and field courses to which all answers are "no", you should explain that here, also. Normally, we would expect some safety precautions for such courses.
6. Coordination and Consultation

Emails/letters, as noted below and attached to this proposal, or signatures below, indicate that the affected departments, programs or units have been notified of this proposal and have had an opportunity to assess the impact of the proposal on their respective units.

Affected Academic Department(s) or Program(s) – other than the sponsoring department:

Department/Program 1
Name of Chair/Program Director
Or letter attached □
Date
Chair Signature

Department/Program 2
Name of Chair/Program Director
Or letter attached □
Date
Chair Signature

Department/Program 3
Name of Chair/Program Director
Or letter attached □
Date
Chair Signature
(if more than three Departments/Programs, please continue on a separate page)

Other Units:

Associate Provost for Instruction & Dean of the Graduate School (for Gen Ed courses only)
Date
Or letter attached □

Registrar
Date
Or letter attached □

Library Director
Date
Or letter attached □

Computing and Network Services
Date
Or letter attached □

Physical Plant
Date
Or letter attached □

Forest Properties
Date
Or letter attached □

Environmental Health and Safety
Date
Or letter attached □
7. Proposer Information and Sponsoring Department Chair Affirmation:

Contact Person:

Name: James P. Gibbs Department: Environmental and Forest Biology

Email: jpgibbs@esf.edu Phone: 315-470-6764

This proposal has been reviewed and approved by the sponsoring Department. Affected departments have been notified and given the opportunity to provide feedback. Department resources are or will be made available to support the course, or a plan is in place to meet the resource needs as identified in the Institutional Impacts section of this proposal (see Section 4, above).

Name: Melissa Fierke

Date: ____________________________

Department Chair (or designated curriculum representative)

Signature: _______________________

Department Chair (or designated curriculum representative)

Or letter attached □

8. Approvals:

___________________________

Curriculum Committee Date

___________________________

Faculty Governance Date

___________________________

Provost Date