Textbooks

None – occasional reading assignments will be made through online links or by printed materials distributed to the class.

Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CLASS ASSIGNMENT</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>August 26</td>
<td>Welcome to class, syllabus; Introduction to plant diversity</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>September 2</td>
<td>Holiday – University closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>September 9</td>
<td>Concepts and nomenclature in diversity</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>September 16</td>
<td>Field trip</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>September 23</td>
<td>Conservation planning methodologies</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>October 30</td>
<td>Measurements of diversity</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>October 7</td>
<td><strong>Exam 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>October 14</td>
<td>Disturbance effects on diversity and richness; project threats assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>October 21</td>
<td>Edaphic effects on diversity and richness</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>October 28</td>
<td>Climatic effects on diversity and richness</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>November 4</td>
<td>Conservation in Texas – rare plant species</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>November 11</td>
<td>Conservation in Texas – landscape scale</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>November 18</td>
<td><strong>Exam 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>November 25</td>
<td>Presentation group conservation plans</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>December 2</td>
<td>Final presentations; final exam review</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>December 9</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
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The instructor reserves the right to administer revisions to the schedule if circumstances require.
Grading – 1000 point scale

**Tests** – Two (2) tests – **400 points**

Tests will be based on lecture notes, class handouts, and assigned readings.

**Writing Assignments** – **100 points**

A writing assignment will be given during the course of the semester – 5 page paper providing synopsis and review of selected peer-reviewed journal research article.

**Group Project** – **300 points**

Groups of 4-5 students will write a conservation plan covering a threatened plant community; plan will be presented to the class near the end of the semester.

**Final Exam** – **200 points**

A comprehensive final exam will be given covering all material presented during semester, including lecture notes, class handouts, and assigned readings.

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**Attendance**

*Because this course meets only one day per week, much material will be presented and discussed during each class. It will be impossible for you to perform well in this course without attending all classes.* Students must read the assigned readings prior to attending class. Students will be asked to comply with TAMUC policies and guidelines and should arrive on time (LATE arrivals are disruptive and not acceptable). It is the student’s responsibilities to maintain contact with the instructor and to inform me of any absences which may occur that prevent their attendance and participation in coursework, assignments, or exams.

**Classroom Policy**

- Students should arrive ON TIME.
- Students are expected to read any assigned material prior to the class.
- To create a pleasant learning environment, students MUST turn their cell phones and other potentially disruptive electronic devices to silent mode.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

This course is a survey of concepts in plant community diversity, reserve design, and conservation practice. Expected outcomes will be a basic familiarity with nomenclature, concepts and approaches to conservation of plant populations, communities, and ecological systems. The emphasis of this course will be on grassland communities, although other systems will also be explored. The course will be primarily lecture, with one or more local fieldtrips.
University Statements

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly work free from fraud and deception and is an educational objective of this institution.

Texas A&M University-Commerce has explicit rules and regulations governing academic dishonesty and academic misconduct. As the University states, “All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” These policies are stated in detail in the Student’s Guide Handbook. Each student is expected to read this document and abide by the contained policies. These university policies will be followed in this class. The minimum penalty for an act of academic dishonesty will be the assignment grade of 0 on the examination or homework assignment. The maximum penalty is expulsion from the University.

Texas A&M University-Commerce further does not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material.

Tenets of Common Behavior

All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See current Student Guidebook)

Campus Concealed Carry

Campus Concealed Carry - Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&MCommerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to [(http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf) and/or consult your event organizer]. Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Nondiscrimination Statement

A&M–Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment
free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained

**Students with Disabilities Information**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Student Disability Resources & Services  
Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Gee Library, Room 162  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148  
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

**Requests for Special Accommodations**

Requests from students with disabilities for reasonable accommodations must go through the Academic Support Committee. An individual instructor cannot decide to make accommodations for you without that Committee’s approval.