**UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO MARANHÃO**

**CENTRO DE CIÊNCIAS AGRÁRIAS E AMBIENTAIS**

**CAMPUS IV – CHAPADINHA - MA**

**PROGRAMA DE PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO EM CIÊNCIAS AMBIENTAIS**

**PRIMATE CONSERVATION**

The course will be given using Google Classroom, and will consist of synchronous and asynchronous virtual lectures, videos, assignments, discussions, student presentations, and group activities.

## Course Goals

Major goal of this course is to introduce the theoretical framework of Conservation Biology, using projects involving primates as examples. The course will be devoted to learning the root causes of primate extinction and the reason why certain primates throughout Latin America, Africa, Asia and Madagascar are the most endangered. The most critically endangered primates will be reviewed and management plans evaluated. Throughout this course we will discuss the effects of human impact on environments, including hunting/bushmeat, deforestation, selective logging, palm oil plantations, pet trade and laboratory use of primates. Time will be dedicated to understand the interconnectedness of primates, ecosystems and human wellbeing. We will explore how diseases and climate change are affecting primate populations. Controversial subjects will be discussed such as ecotourism, frozen zoos, captive conservation, and species reintroduction. Finally, we will explore the five sustainability competencies (i.e., system thinking, anticipatory, normative, strategic thinking and interpersonal) as effective tools to shift paradigm.

**Course Structure**

The course is divided in **three Modules** focusing on introducing primates, their threats and potenital solutions. Class material will include, among others, slides, clips, documentaries, book chapters and scientific and popular articles. Short quizzes, assignments, final research presentation, participation in discussions and group activities will be graded throughout the course. Assignments will consist of conducting a research on a specific topic, summarize the findings in 1-2 page and upload the document before each class. Students will share their findings in an informal setting during virtual meetings. The final presentation project format and focus will be discussed and decided with the students early in the course, but possible subjects could include 1) the conservation knowledge of a species followed by a proposed management plan; 2) current conservation topic, such as bushmeat, followed by some solutions to this problem; 3) more general topic such as Ecotourism, ICDPs, the IUCN, Captive Conservation, Biomedical Research, human-primate relationships, etc.

 **Modulo I – Primates in peril (15hrs)**

We will start by introducing the primate order, their characteristics and life styles. We will explore primate diversity, life history, ecology and behavior before examining their current conservation status. Students will research the most critically endangered primates to explore which characteristics make some species more vulnerable to extinction than others.

***Tools:***

1. Lectures
2. Student presentations
3. Videos
4. Summaries and discussions of readings
5. Assessments

**Modulo II – Threats (15hrs)**

We continue by discussing major primate threats, including habitat disturbance, deforestation, forest fragmentation, diseases, bushmeat, climate change, medicinal uses for primates, and the pet trade.

***Tools:***

1. Lectures
2. Student presentations
3. Videos
4. Summaries and discussions of readings
5. Assessments

**Modulo III – Solutions and Critical Prospectives (15hrs)**

We conclude by exploring potential solutions (conservation strategies and tactics, translocation, ecotourism, etc.), research methodologies, and critical approaches to conservation (ethnoprimatology, decolonizing conservation, etc.).

***Tools:***

1. Lectures
2. Student presentations
3. Videos
4. Summaries and discussions of readings
5. Assessments

Sincerely,



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