

The Future of Rain Forests

IDS 2935 - Quest 2 - Fall 2021

Professor Emilio M. Bruna

I. Course Information

Meeting Day, Time, & Location:

- **Tuesday:** Period 4 (10:40 AM - 11:30 AM) in AND101 *and*
- **Thursday:** Period 4-5 (10:40 AM - 12:35 PM) in WM0202
- *Note that the Tuesday and Thursday classes meet in different rooms*

Professor Bruna's Contact Information:

- **Office:** Tropical Ecology & Conservation Lab, 711 Newell Drive
- **Phone:** (352) 846-0634
- **email:** embruna@ufl.edu

Office Hours:

- **When:** Wednesday or Friday 10:30 am - 12 noon. *If you can't make one of these sessions, no problem! Just let me know and we will make an appointment*
- **What:** Here are some of the reasons to visit during office hours:
 - *Introduce yourself and grab a free tea or espresso from the lab kitchen*
 - *Ask for clarification on assignments*
 - *Discuss work we did in class to make sure you understood the key points*
 - *Get feedback on ideas for class projects*
 - *Ask questions about applying to graduate school*
 - *Ask for help arranging a study group*
 - *(lots of other reasons)*
- **Format:** You can come to office hours in person or via Zoom (link on class canvas page). You can [sign up for an Office Hours appointment in advance here](#). You don't have to sign up for a specific time - you're welcome to just show up during the office hours. Signing up simply guarantees a specific time slot so you don't have to wait in line.
- **Location:** Tropical Ecology & Conservation Lab, 711 Newell Dr. [map and directions](#)

GenEd Designations

- **Primary:** Biological Sciences
- **Secondary (if seeking):** International (N)
- **Writing:** No writing designation
- **A minimum grade of C is required for general education credit**

Course Description

Tropical Rain Forests cover approximately 15% of the Earth's land surface but contain over 50% of the world's biodiversity. They are also the home to millions of people, the source of products central to our lives, shape global climate, and are being cleared at unprecedented rates. Students in this class will investigate the same fundamental questions asked by scientists that study rain

forests: Why are we fascinated by rain forests? How have stereotypes about them permeated everything from pop culture to international relations? What gave rise to their remarkable biodiversity? What are the drivers and consequences of deforestation? Is rain forest conservation compatible with socioeconomic development?

Students will explore these questions by reading and discussing a research studies, gathering and analyzing multidisciplinary data, interviewing people engaged in forest-related activities, and by reflecting on the consequences for rain forests of our choices as consumers, scholars, and community members. The course is taught in a non-traditional format: in-class sessions will be devoted to activities ranging from conversations with journalists, scientists, and conservation practitioners based in tropical countries to gathering and analyzing data on deforestation to reading and discussing scientific studies. There might be a field trip to a museum or supermarket. There might even be an occasional lecture. Instead of readings from a textbook, most weeks we will read a scientific study or some texts intended for a general audience (e.g., newspaper articles, chapters from memoir). The assignments are designed to maximize personal reflection and creativity... and yes, you can actually get credit for watching movies such as Predator, Rio, and Apocalypse Now.

Required & Recommended Course Materials

- **Required (purchase/rent):** Juniper, T. (2019). Rainforest: Dispatches from Earth's Most Vital Frontlines. Island Press. (456 pp). ISBN-13: 9781642830736 [approx. \$8 (used), \$14-18 (new), \$20 (electronic)].
- *Additional Required Reading will be posted on the course Canvas site)*
- **Recommended:** None

II. Graded Coursework

Assignment	Description	Requirements	Points
In-Class Exercises	Completed during class	25 exercises x 20 pts each	500
Movie reviews	3 Movie Reviews	Completed review form	250
Analytic Essay	Hypothesis-driven essay	1000 words essay + figures / tables	250
Personal Action	Personal action to advance rain forest research or conservation	Reflective Essay (500-700 words)	250
Campaign Materials	3 products for a rain forest awareness campaign for UF students	3 items + summary (500-700 words)	250
TOTAL			1500

II. Semester Overview

Note: The reading list for each session is subject to change. For the up-to-date list of materials to read or watch in advance of each class session please refer to the course Canvas page.

Week	Date	Topic	Read Before Class
WHY ARE WE FASCINATED BY TROPICAL RAIN FORESTS?			
Week 1	24-Aug	Introductions	-
	26-Aug	Setting the stage: historical narratives	Raby 2017 (pp 216-223)
Week 2	31-Aug	Rain forests in High & Popular Culture	Earnhart 2007 (pp 341-352)
	2-Sep	The Rain Forest in film & TV	-
THE ECOLOGY & EVOLUTION OF TROPICAL RAIN FORESTS			
Week 3	7-Sep	What is a Rain Forest?	Juniper Ch. 1-2 (pp 15-54)
	9-Sep	Patterns of Biodiversity I	
Week 4	14-Sep	Patterns of Biodiversity II	Juniper Ch. 3-4 (pp 55-102)
	16-Sep	Coevolution and the origins of tropical biodiversity	
Week 5	21-Sep	Forest disturbance, dynamics, & the maintenance of diversity	Juniper Ch. 5 (pp 106-124)
	23-Sep	Humans as part of rain forests	
Week 6	28-Sep	Rain Forest Manipulation & the Paradox of Luxuriance	Staver et al. 2011 (pp 230-232)
	30-Sep	Forest-Savanna Boundaries and Tipping Points	
Week 7	5-Oct	Rain Forests: Fact vs. Fiction	
	7-Oct	(BAD) RAIN FOREST MOVIE FEST 2021	
THE DRIVERS AND IMPACTS OF DEFORESTATION			
Week 8	12-Oct	Forest cover and forest loss I	Juniper Ch. 6-7 (pp 125-153) & Nolen 2018 (online news article)
	14-Oct	Forest cover and forest loss II	
Week 9	19-Oct	Mining, Timber	Juniper Ch. 12-13 (pp 220-253)
	21-Oct	Agriculture and Fire	
Week 10	26-Oct	Climate change I	
	28-Oct	Climate change II	
THE FUTURE OF TROPICAL RAIN FORESTS			
Week 11	2-Nov	Consumer choices	Juniper Ch. 15-17 (pp 278-330) Lawal article
	4-Nov	DURIAN FEST 2021	
Week 12	9-Nov	International frameworks	Juniper Ch. 19-21 (pp 345-379)
	11-Nov	No class - holiday	
Week 13	16-Nov	Protected areas	Juniper Ch. 18 (pp. 331-342) Juniper, Ch. 20-22 (pp 355-371)
	18-Nov	Forest restoration & regeneration	
Week 14	23-Nov	Project Work Day	
	25-Nov	No class - holiday	
Week 15	30-Nov	Local Initiatives, Empowered Communities	Juniper Ch 10 (pp 182-203) & Ch 14 (pp 254-274) Juniper Ch 8 (pp 154-170)
	2-Dec	Philanthropy, NGOs, and Activism	
Week 16	7-Dec	Rain Forest Headlines	Juniper Ch 22 (pp 380-398)
	9-Dec	What will we do?	
Finals Week			
	15-Dec	Final Exam 7:30-9:30 AM	Optional; will only count if it improves your grade

IV. Grading

Statement on Attendance and Participation

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

- **Attendance:** Though attendance is not required, most of the required assignments are completed in class. They are designed so that one could complete them independently, but by doing them in class you will benefit from working collaboratively with the other students.
- **Participation:** Consistent informed, thoughtful, and considerate class participation is encouraged. If you have personal issues that prohibit you from joining freely in class discussion, e.g., shyness, language barriers, etc., that is no problem! Let me know as soon as possible and we will discuss alternative modes of participation.
- **If you need to miss an assignment or discussion for whatever reason (conference, illness, family emergency, etc.), please let me know as soon as possible.** We will make arrangements for you to complete any assignments and go over any course material you will be missing. I would much rather you focus on your health or supporting friends and family in need than struggle to turn in assignments. Let me know so we can work things out.

4. Grading Scale

- **Grade Assignment** (based on % of possible points)

A = 94–100%, A- = 90–93%

B+ = 87–89%, B = 84–86%, B- = 80–83%

C+ = 77–79%, C = 74–76%, C- = 70–73%

D+ = 67–69%, D = 64–66%, D- = 60–63%

E < 60

- **Regrades:** Requests for re-evaluation of any quizzes, exams, or assignments will only be considered if accompanied by a letter explaining why you think you deserve additional credit and the number of additional points you think you deserve. The deadline for submitting these requests is one week after the work has been returned.
- **Grade Points:** For information on how UF assigns grade points, visit: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

V. Quest Learning Experiences

- **Details of Experiential Learning Component** This course has multiple experiential learning activities. Students will be taking a field trip to the FLMNH Butterfly Rain Forest to investigate plant form and function and plant-animal interactions. Students will also surveying tropical products in their homes and pantries. Finally, they will be gathering and analyzing data on deforestation, biodiversity in different tropical rain forest regions, and for forest regeneration influences carbon stocks and climate change scenarios.

- **Details of Self-Reflection Component** Students will also have multiple opportunities for self-reflection throughout the course. In addition to reflection on their goals and expectations for the class, they will consider the (almost certainly underappreciated) ubiquity of products derived from tropical plants and animals in their daily lives. Finally, they will have the opportunity to consider what actions they can take as individuals to advance rain forest conservation and the well-being of forest-dependent people.

VI. Required Policies

Students Requiring Accommodation

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

UF Evaluations Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Counseling and Wellness Center

- U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the [Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the [Student Health Care Center website](#).

- University Police Department: Visit [UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the [UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

The Writing Studio

The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> or in 2215 Turlington Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops.

In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is: an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code

VII. General Education and Quest Objectives & SLOs