

# The Future of Rain Forests

## IDS 2935 - Fall 2021 - Quest 2

### 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 WM 0202

- **Instructor:**

- **Professor:** Emilio Bruna

- **Office:** Tropical Ecology & Conservation Lab, 711 Newell Drive

- **Phone:** (352) 846-0634

- **email:** [embruna@ufl.edu](mailto:embruna@ufl.edu)

- **Office Hours:**

- \* *When:* Wednesday or Friday 10:30 am - 12 noon. If you can't make one of these sessions 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 (location below) 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, though - you're welcome to just show up during the office hours. Signing up just 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 GenEd Designation:** Biological Sciences

- **Secondary GenEd Designation (if seeking):** International (N)

*A minimum grade of C is required for general education credit*

- **Writing designation:** No writing designation

- **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 readings will be made available on course Canvas site*

**Recommended:** None

## **II. Coursework & Schedule**

### **1. List of Graded Work**