Objectives:
This course is an introduction to the diverse and fascinating discipline of conservation biology. The following objectives will be addressed through readings, presentations, discussions, and analyses.
1. To refine critical scientific thinking skills including the analysis of peer-reviewed scientific literature.
2. To enhance communication skills and learn how to effectively incorporate feedback.
3. To explore some of the content associated with conservation biology and familiarize ourselves with the linkages between research, application, management, and social context.
4. To learn about local conservation issues facing Canada.
5. To demonstrate mastery of the content developed in the course.

Instructor:  
Dr. Christopher Lortie  
lortie@yorku.ca  
Ph: 416.736.2100 ext 20588

Teaching assistant:  
Laurent Lamarque  
llamarqueab@gmail.com

Prerequisites:  
Plants (2010), Animals (2030), & Genetics (2040)

Office hours:  
(i) Available 12-2pm on Tuesday & Thursday in LB 218.  
(ii) By appointment.

Important student information:  
Please see the following links for the academic honesty:  
and general information:  
http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate_cte_main_pages/ccas.htm

Specific policy on assignments:  
Late assignments will not be accepted without explicit a priori permission of the instructor.  
All assignments must be double-spaced and typed & must be emailed to the ta: llamarqueab@gmail.com

Structure:  
A learner-centred approach will be adopted with a strong emphasis on the primary scientific literature. The course is comprised of three major sections including principles, contemporary topics, and application to the urban context. The first component of the course will be presented by Dr. Lortie developing the conceptual context, common skill base, and principles to be used throughout. The remaining two sections of the course will be developed by a mixture of lectures, student presentations, and activities. Discussion will be strongly promoted and adequate time provided where appropriate. This structural approach directly addresses objectives 1, 2, & 3. Each topic explored by groups must be related to Canadian issues to ensure that we begin to develop an understanding of local issues (objective 4). Finally, the content objective #5 will be evaluated by three within class/lab term tests.

Readings:  
Readings: Mandatory readings will be assigned throughout the term online, and students are expected to do additional readings as discussed in the evaluation section.

Marking keys:  
This course adopts a transparent grading process for each assignment, i.e. not only should the student know the overall value of each assignment but also how the assignment is marked in detail. As such, marking keys will be made available on the website in advance.

Evaluation:  
Terms tests (x2 @ 20% each)  
Lab reports.  
Participation & attendance.  
Group or independent project  
40%  
30%  
10%  
20%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Theory</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>March 5.</td>
<td>Introduction to Cons Bio. Goals, syllabus, &amp; working groups.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 24 &amp; 26.</td>
<td>(a) Biodiversity. (b) Biodiversity.</td>
<td>Collect data.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 31 &amp; April 2.</td>
<td>(a) Population genetics. (b) Genetic conservation (guest).</td>
<td>Collect data &amp; do analyses.</td>
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<td>April 7 &amp; 9.</td>
<td>(a) How to give a good presentation. (b) <strong>Term test #1 on April 9th.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lab report #1 due April 10th.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Application</strong></td>
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<td>April 14 &amp;16.</td>
<td>(a) Invasive species. (b) Global climate change.</td>
<td>Presentations &amp; debates.</td>
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<td>April 21 &amp; 23.</td>
<td>(a) Habitat fragmentation. (b) Conservation of wild animals.</td>
<td>Presentations &amp; debates.</td>
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<td>April 28 &amp; 30.</td>
<td>(a) Genetically modified organisms and agriculture. (b) Urban ecology.</td>
<td>Presentations &amp; debates.</td>
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<td>May 5 &amp; 7.</td>
<td>(a) Review in class. (b) <strong>Term test #2 on May 7th.</strong></td>
<td>Work on independent projects.</td>
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<td>May 12 &amp; 14.</td>
<td>Presentation of independent projects.</td>
<td><strong>Lab report #2 due May 15th.</strong></td>
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<td>May 19.</td>
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