

Conservation Biology: Philosophy and Ethics - 001-2-3085

Lecturers: Uri Roll & David Saltz

2 credits, 2 weekly hours, Albert Katz International School for Desert Studies, Sede Boqer Campus, BGU. Autumn semester, **Tuesdays 8:30-10:00**, **Mitrani Seminar room**, Biology building (#25) room **Num. 3A**.

Course description

Conservation Biology is a goal oriented applied science dealing with a crisis situation. Its underlying philosophy therefore differs from both basic science and other applied sciences. It also raises a wide range of epistemological and ethical issues. Knowledge of the relevant philosophical issues is important for practitioners in this field because conservation ultimately takes place in a socio-political arena, and it often necessitates justifications for conservation actions that are costly and forgo the usual default: income-generating development. Key issues in conservation philosophy—such as what is nature/natural, anthropocentrism vs. ecocentrism, and pragmatism vs. intrinsic value—are still being debated and the field continues to evolve. In this course I will bring forth some of the state of the art of the various research topics in the philosophy of conservation.

The course will follow the evolution of the philosophy and ethics of conservation and highlight the key questions debated still today.

Course structure

The course will include several introductory lectures. However, its core will center on discussions regarding the course topics by the students, based on pre-class assigned readings.

Grade components

Active participation in discussions	(30%)
Debate presentation and abstract	(10%)
Final project presentation	(60%)

Recommended Reading: Full list provided in the course website