

BIOL / ENTM 4015 – Conservation Biology – Discussion Sections 1 & 2
Discussion Section Participation

As indicated in your syllabus, you have the opportunity to earn 30 points towards your final grade in the course in your weekly Discussion Section session. The points can be earned as follows:

Attendance & participation (discretionary, <i>i.e.</i> , up to the TAs)	15 pts
1. Informal writing & in-class discussion (questions from journals)	5 pts
2. Informal writing & in-class discussion (at least one contributed news item)	5 pts
3. Informal writing & in-class discussion (at least one summary of a substantive contribution)	5 pts

Attendance & participation: You are expected to attend your Discussion Section sessions and contribute towards meaningful, constructive dialogue.

Informal writing throughout the semester, linked to informal Discussion Section sessions: You are expected to keep a written journal (which should be the same one that you use in the main Lecture Class) of thoughts, ideas, questions, and observations relevant to course content throughout the semester. The journal should contain brief summaries of our discussions, questions regarding material that may serve as fodder for discussion, current conservation-related news items of interest to the class (with references), *etc.* Periodically during the semester you will turn in your journals for evaluation. Three items in particular will be required:

1. Questions (5 pts) –
There should be at least one question that could spark discussion for each Discussion Section session. There should also be at least one brief summary of a Discussion Section discussion that emerged from one of your questions.
2. At least one contributed news item (5 pts) –
There should be several brief summaries of news items relevant to conservation, at least one of which you brought up in a Discussion Section session.
3. At least one substantive contribution (5 pts) –
There should be several brief summaries of substantive contributions that you made to Discussion Section discussions, at least one of which is explained and highlighted within the context of the other contributions made by other students concerning the focal topic.

Each of your three sets of informal writing and Discussion Section discussion points (numbers 1, 2 and 3 above) must come from a separate class period and topic (*i.e.*, there are 5 points max. for any particular topic on a given day). Although we encourage you to share especially interesting topics in both Discussion Section and Lecture Class, the topics you use for points should differ between Discussion Section and Lecture Class discussions.