

Course Outline
Geography 456-Wildlife Conservation

Office Hours: Tues/Weds 5:00-6:00
Office: DTB 113B
Contact: 721-7344

Course Description

This is a senior seminar course, in which we will discuss several of the major themes and issues facing wildlife/nature conservation. John Livingstone wrote a book some years ago entitled “The Fallacy of Wildlife Conservation” wherein he suggests most of the wildlife conservation measures we have applied have failed, they are mere window dressing. Once the shock of his presentation wears off, an examination of the facts indicates he was correct, and still is. We will take our examination of the situation to the present, and students will coalesce into small groups (2+) and select topics during class discussion, and develop those through a detailed examination of the literature (individual), the preparation and delivery of a seminar to the class (group), and the delivery of a short paper (individual) that synthesizes the issues, and supports an assessment of the likelihood, and barrier to success.

The senior part of the description means that students are prepared to seek out and read independently once their topic is narrowed down, and they are prepared to join in discussions in class time and express themselves effectively. Seminar suggests you have read material on your own and can articulate ideas and questions. In this setting students can and should be challenged to think critically and support their thoughts.

Wildlife and nature conservation is a broad area and you are welcome, in fact encouraged to play to your strengths. If you have courses in cognate areas and/or have done some work in an aspect of conservation this is a place to put it to work.

The course will also include a few wildly unlikely tales from the podium and we hope to have some visitors from the conservation world avail of their experiences.

Text

There is no course text. I will suggest readings, and each student will be expected to be sleuthing material from the academic and gray literature (non peer reviewed government and other public documents).

Evaluation

Seminar (size and content discussed in class) presentation	40%
Written literature review-minimum 25 publications	20%
Topic review paper-10 pp.	20%
Participation	20%

As per the Academic Calendar:

Grade	Grade point value	Grade scale	Description
A+	9	90-100%	Exceptional, outstanding and excellent performance. Normally achieved by a minority of students. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectation and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.
A	8	85-89%	
A-	7	80-84%	
B+	6	77-79%	Very good, good and solid performance. Normally achieved by the largest number of students. These grades indicate a good grasp of the subject matter or excellent grasp in one area balanced with satisfactory grasp in the other area.
B	5	73-76%	
B-	4	70-72%	
C+	3	65-69%	Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory. These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
C	2	60-64%	
D	1	50-59%	Marginal Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
F	0	0-49%	Unsatisfactory performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.
N	0	0-49%	Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.

Geography Department Online Contacts

- Geography Department website: uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/
- Geography Department Chair: geogchair@uvic.ca
- Geography Undergraduate Advising: geogadvising@uvic.ca