

INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ISSUES

Wildlife Biology 460

2 Credits

Spring 2009

Meeting 2 hours per week - Monday 4:10-6:00 PM

Location: Forestry 106

Instructor: Christopher Servheen, phone 243-4903, email: grizz@umontana.edu

Office hours by appointment

Graduate students and upper level students in Wildlife Biology, Biology, Resource Conservation, Environmental Studies, and Forestry

This course will examine some of the major international wildlife conservation issues. The course will consist of discussions and readings on specific topics such as trade in wildlife parts, the role of traditional medicine in international wildlife conservation, zoos as conservation opportunities or pitfalls, wildlife conservation issues in Southeast Asia, global resource use and population growth, international carnivore conservation, and ocean fisheries. Case studies on specific topics will focus on trade in bear and tiger parts, rhino conservation, tiger conservation, the impacts of global climate change on wildlife conservation, effects of subsistence hunting in tropical environments, and human population growth in relation to international wildlife conservation. The purpose of the course is to expose students to international wildlife conservation issues and problems and to force students to think about solutions using their knowledge and experience. The course will focus on practical and applied approaches to these issues with emphasis on the complexities of implementing conservation in real world situations. Comparison between conservation systems in the U.S. and in other countries will be discussed.

Students will be encouraged to discuss and understand the complexities of these issues and will be challenged to consider solutions. All students will be expected to participate in discussions and defend points of view based on information gained during the course. A paper or project will be required of each student. There will be a mid-term and a final exam. Graduate students will be required to present a specific case study of their choosing to the class.

Readings on ERES:

Reading materials will be required for each topic and will be available on line on the Electronic Reserve System at the University of Montana - <http://eres.lib.umt.edu/>.

Password to enter the class ERES site is **worldwide**

Exams and what is expected:

Weekly assignments: Every week I will hand out a question(s) to be answered in writing on some of the readings. The assignment will deal with the topics and readings to be covered in the following week. These written answers to these assignments should be printed and no more than 2 single-spaced pages. Hand-written answers will not be accepted. We will discuss the assignment for each week during that class. These answers are to be turned in at the beginning of the class covering that topic. I will not accept any of these assignments after class starts on that topic. If you have an emergency and somehow cannot attend class, you can email me your assignment but it must be postmarked by 4:10 of the class day. If it is received after 4:10 it will not be accepted. The purpose of the weekly assignments is twofold: 1) to get you to think coherently about issues by reading assignments prior to class and participating in group discussion; and 2) to get you to write coherently.

Exams: We will have a midterm exam and a final exam. Exams are essay and require that you think and synthesize what we have talked about in class. The final exam is comprehensive and will cover everything we have covered in class. I will post a list of possible exam questions on the ERES site a few weeks after class begins. I will select some of these questions for your exams. Posting these questions will allow you to see and understand what kinds of topics I want you to know about. If you invest a good deal of time practicing coherent written answers for all of these questions, you will have an excellent grasp of the subject and you will do well in this course.

Paper: A paper will be required of each student. You must choose your topic in consultation with me. Graduate students will be required to present their paper topic to the class. Papers are due on May 4.

Grades:

Weekly assignments will be graded and averaged. The average of your weekly assignments will count for 30% of your grade. A missing or late assignment is a zero. I will drop your lowest grade and average the rest.

The midterm exam counts for 30% of your grade.

The final exam counts for 30% of your grade.

Your paper will count for 10% of your grade.

You will not be graded on your participation in class discussions. However, your participation or lack of same will be noted. If your grade is "on the line" between two possible grades, your participation will be used to "tip" you to the next higher grade if you did participate in class discussions.

TIMETABLE - WILDLIFE BIOLOGY 460

Spring 2008

Instructor: Chris Servheen, Univ. Hall 309, office hours – call or email to set up at 243-4903 or grizz@umontana.edu

DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC	OPTIONAL READINGS
1/26	Servheen	Overview and organization	
2/2	Servheen	CITES and trade controls. IUCN Red list, perspectives on species endangerment, strategic planning for conservation	http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/what.shtml http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/how.shtml http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/sec/index.shtml http://plasma.nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine/ http://www.iucnredlist.org/info/programme
2/9	Servheen	Bear trade issues- clashes between culture, belief systems and conservation	http://www.worldwildlife.org/trade/faqs_bear.cfm
2/16	Holiday		
2/23	Servheen	Rhinos and elephants – trade and management	http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/sqs/afesg/hec/hecreviews.html http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/sqs/afesg/aed/aesr2002.html
3/2 Paper topics due!!!	Servheen	Whales and whale management	http://www.iwcoffice.org/commission/iwcmain.htm In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whale Ship Essex. Nathaniel Philbrick. Penguin Books.
3/9	Servheen	Tiger conservation Implementing Conservation	http://www.nfwf.org/programs/stf.cfm
3/16	Servheen	MID TERM EXAM	
3/23	Servheen	Global fisheries and the management of fisheries. Tuna and billfish management and conservation	http://www.iucn.org/en/news/archive/2006/12/12_unga.htm In a Perfect Ocean: The State of Fisheries and Ecosystems in the North Atlantic Ocean. Daniel Pauly and Jay MacLean. Island Press. Cod: A Biography of the Fish that Changed the World. Mark Kurlansky. Penguin Books.
3/30		Spring Break	
4/6	Servheen	Bushmeat, Sea turtle conservation	http://www.traffic.org/bushmeat/overview.pdf http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/turtles/
4/13	Servheen	Global Climate Change	http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/final%5FObsImpact%2Epdf http://multimedia.wri.org/safeclimate_calculator.cfm
4/20	Servheen	Human population growth and the real issues of wildlife conservation, human impacts on wildlife and habitats, tropical forest harvest and its relationships to wildlife conservation	http://www.populationaction.org/resources/publications/naturesplace/NaturesPlace.pdf
4/27	Siew Te	Sun Bear	

	Wong	conservation	
5/4		Graduate student presentations. Papers due! Discussion of how to be involved and make a difference.	
Tuesday 5/14		FINAL EXAM 3:20-5:20 pm	