

**WILDLIFE ISSUES IN A CHANGING WORLD**

*Instructor:* Dale Kristensen

*Office:* 5603 Biosciences Complex

*Email:* kristend@biology.queensu.ca

*Class:* Slot 013

*Place:* Miller 105, GOO 247 (T)

*Office hrs:* Scheduled Wed. 1:30-3:30 and 'walk-in' most mornings

*Teaching Assistant* Dan Selbie

*Teaching Assistant* Mary Stapleton

**Course Description:** Wildlife management and conservation are not recent concepts, and there are examples throughout our history in which different cultures have manipulated wildlife populations for diverse purposes. However, with the recognition over the past few decades that humankind is fast approaching the carrying capacity of our planet, the protection of remnant wild spaces and their constituent species has become an urgent matter. Conservationists recognize that this is not an easy task, as there are differing views as to the value of wildlife, the economic and societal costs of protecting them, and the long-term viability of proposed courses of action.

ENSC 320 is an interactive lecture-based course, in which we will explore:

- 1) the past, present and future status of wildlife in a world increasingly dominated by humans;
- 2) various conservation efforts instigated to protect remaining wildlife populations; and,
- 3) the complicating factors associated with a diverse array of social, economic, philosophical and legal concerns.

We will use a number of case studies in wildlife biology/management drawn from such journals as *Wildlife Management*, *Restoration Ecology* and *Conservation Biology*, and from pertinent papers by respected authorities such as E.O. Wilson and Paul Ehrlich. Some excellent examples include the politics of conserving cross-border migrants (e.g., caribou, butterflies, waterfowl, fish), the cultural and socioeconomic factors involved in the exploitation of endangered species, umbrella and keystone species concepts, the use of zoos as reservoirs of genetic data, and the impacts of ecotourism.

## **Course Objectives:**

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to demonstrate:

1. an understanding of the prehistoric, historic and present trends in wildlife diversity and survival
2. an understanding of the differing perspectives, values and philosophies regarding wildlife, both past and present
3. knowledge of the basic ecological principles affecting wildlife populations
4. an appreciation of the complexity – political, economic, cultural, historical, psychological, geographical, and biological – of managing wildlife in a changing world
5. an understanding of the role of sustainable development in wildlife conservation.

**Course Level and Credits:** For undergraduates three (3) credit hours, one term.

### **Required Text:**

Beazley, K., and R. Boardman (editors). 2001. *Politics of the Wild*. Oxford University Press, New York.

### **Supplementary Reading:**

Wilson, E.O. 2002. *The Future of Life*. Random House Press, New York.

### **Teaching/Learning Methods:**

**Lectures** (3 hrs/wk). In addition to assigned textbook readings, a substantial portion of course material will be presented via in-class lectures, including interactive in-class discussions.

**Tutorials/Films:** There will also be tutorials every second week, during which time you will have a chance to explore assigned papers and view relevant documentaries. This is your chance to dig deep into the issues.

**Critiques.** You will prepare a short critique (2 pages) of 2 assigned papers (to be provided). Details on how to write a critique will be given in class. Essentially, they are critical examinations of research, whereby you are given the opportunity to suggest better methodologies, offer different interpretations of results and oppose their conclusions (or alternatively laud praise on noteworthy achievements). You will be required to provide referenced support for your comments, where applicable.

**Case Study.** You will be required to complete a case-study analysis of a wildlife issue of your choice. The case study will begin with the identification of the problem, a diagnosis of the factors driving the decline or failure and available recovery treatments or plans. Your findings will be written up in a report (10 page, double-spaced, 12pt font).

**Presentation to Council Statement.** In this exercise, you will prepare a brief statement (max. 2 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt font) contesting, or alternatively in support of, an actual wildlife conservation initiative, as if you were presenting to a governing council. However, in this instance you will not be acting as a scientist, but as a concerned citizen representing some group affected by the decision. For example, you may wish to portray yourself as a logger, fisherman, farmer, schoolteacher, etc. Marks will be assigned for realistic character portrayals and for identifying the facts of the case. Wildlife issues from other countries are encouraged (e.g., ivory trade, pharmaceuticals).

**Grading:**

Midterm 25%

Tutorial Attendance/Participation 5%

Case Study 20%

Critique 10%

Presentation to Council Statement 10%

Final exam 30%

**Academic Integrity:**

The highest standard of integrity and ethical conduct is a requirement of this course. Students are encouraged to share ideas and skills and to freely discuss the course material. Grade work/exercises however must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. The web should be used as a guide, not as a replacement for the library.

**A few non-negotiable understandings:**

- Assigned readings and tutorial information will be used in testing.
- In case of illness, you will still be required to complete the assignment. There will be a late penalty unless a doctor's note is provided.
- Late penalties – 10% of assignment grade per day, weekends included.
- No allowances will be considered for handing in assignments late (or writing exams) due to spring vacations, sporting events, and other non-academic functions.

<b>ENSC 320 – Wildlife Issues in a Changing World Lecture Schedule – Winter 2005</b>			
<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b><u>Required</u> Text Reading</b>	<b><u>Supplementary</u></b>
<b>Introduction</b>			
1	Introduction: Definitions, History of Human /Wildlife Interactions	Preface Chapter 6	Prologue
<b>Wildlife: Perceptions and Values</b>			
2	Value of Nature; Economics of Wildlife; <u>Tutorial</u> ( <i>Film: Sacred Balance</i> )	Chapter 1	Chapter 2
3	History of Conservation		Chapter 5
4	Conservation Legislation; <u>Tutorial</u> ( <i>Critique Due</i> )	Chapters 3,7,9	
<b>Fundamentals of Wildlife Ecology</b>			
5	Biodiversity and Endangered Species	Chapter 2	Chapters 3, 4
6	Population Dynamics and Conservation Genetics <u>Tutorial</u>		
7	Vulnerability to Extinction; <u>Midterm</u>		
<b>Primary Stressors</b>			
8	Overexploitation <u>Tutorial</u> ( <i>Case Study Due</i> ) <i>Film: Wildlife for Sale</i>	Chapter 5	
9	Habitat	Chapters 3,4	
10	Exotics, Chains of Extinction; <u>Tutorial</u>		
<b>Conservation Strategies</b>			
11	Ecosystem Approaches, and Ecological Restoration ( <i>Council Statement Due</i> )		
12	Zoos, Reserves and Protected Areas	Chapter 4	
12	The Future of Life	Chapter 10	Chapter 7