

ANTHROPOLOGY 9900A

Special Topics in Anthropology: Anthropology of Conservation

COURSE OUTLINE

Fall 2021

Class day/time: Thursday, 9:30-12:20pm.

Classroom: Virtual seminar conducted synchronously via 'Zoom'.

Instructor: Dr. Ian Colquhoun

Office: SSC 3428

Office hours: By appointment.

Email: colquhou@uwo.ca

Credit value: 0.5 credit.

Calendar Course Description:

The conception and application of “conservation measures” are inherently humanistic endeavours. While current concern over biodiversity loss might lead people to associate “conservation” with threatened species and endangered ecosystems, there are multiple other ways in which humans practice conservation behaviour (usually accompanied by explicit rationales why a particular conservation endeavour is needed or of future value). This seminar will be an exploration of the multiple endeavours and expressions that human engagements with “conservation” can take. We will begin the term looking at the wide-spread association of “conservation” with threatened species and endangered ecosystems.

Other areas to be explored will include (but are not necessarily limited to): issues of curation, both in regards to archaeological assemblages and, more broadly, to museum collections generally; preserving/conserving: published material, indigenous languages, "traditional ecological knowledge" (TEK), architectural heritage, electronic media, and cultural practices.

Antirequisite(s): None.

Prerequisites: None.

Learning Outcomes: Students who successfully complete Anthropology 9900A, “Anthropology of Conservation”, will:

- Gain an appreciation for the multi-faceted ways in which humans pursue and undertake behaviours, practices, and goals aimed at achieving conservation outcomes;
- Recognize ways in which “conservational behavior” in different realms can have broad similarities as well as specific particularities, depending on the “target” of conservation efforts (i.e., similarities and particularities in conservation effort are contingent on the "unit(s)" of conservation);
- Potentially incorporate/apply material, concepts, and/or approaches from the course to conservation-related issues arising in their thesis/dissertation projects.

Evaluation:

- Seminar participation: **20%**
- Short written assignments (related to visits to Weldon Rare Book Collection and Sustainable Archaeology): 2 x 15% = **30%**
- Summary presentation (based on research paper topic): **10%**
- Research paper (students may choose a topic related to their thesis/dissertation research): **40%**

Topic schedule:

Th., Sept. 9th – Wk 1- Introductory and Organizational session.

Th., Sept. 16th – Wk 2- Species and ecosystem conservation.

Th., Sept. 23rd – Wk 3- Discussion of species and ecosystem conservation.

Th., Sept. 30th – Wk 4- Curation as conservation I: Archaeological contexts.

Th., Oct. 7th – Wk. 5- Curation as conservation II: Museum contexts (visit to *Sustainable Archaeology?*).

Th., Oct. 14th – Wk 6- Discussion of curation as conservation (***1st short written assignment due: 15%**).

Th., Oct. 21nd – Wk 7- preserving/conserving published material (visit to Weldon Rare Book Collection?).

Th., Oct. 28th – Wk 8- 2021 CAPA-ACAP Annual Meeting (*2nd short written assignment due: 15%).

Th., Nov. 4th – **Fall '21 Reading Week (no seminar)**

Th., Nov. 11th -- Wk 9- Conserving endangered indigenous languages.

Th., Nov. 18th – Wk 10- Conserving (and implementing) "traditional ecological knowledge" – TEK.

Th., Nov. 25th – Wk 11- Conservation of architectural heritage.

Th., Dec. 2nd – Wk 12- Conserving/preserving electronic media.

Th., Dec. 9th – Wk 13- Conserving cultural practices; **short research paper presentations: 10%**.

Fri.. Dec. 10th (Start of December Exam Period) – Term research paper due: 40%.