

ANTHROPOLOGY 2267A-650

Anthropology of Zoos

COURSE OUTLINE

Fall 2020

Instructor: Dr. Ian Colquhoun (he/him)

Email: colquhou@uwo.ca

Office Hours: To be announced on the course OWL site; note – office time will be held via Zoom.

Teaching Assistant: Sydney Rowinski: srowinsk@uwo.ca

Credit value: 0.5 credit

Mode of delivery: For 2020/2021 this course will be conducted online. It is *asynchronous*, meaning that students will be provided with a variety of lesson materials and activities that can be done throughout the week, although there may be tasks that must be completed by specific times.

Calendar Course Description: Modern zoos characterize themselves as key players in conserving endangered species. But, is this message getting across to zoo visitors? This course utilizes anthropological and interdisciplinary approaches to assess key aspects of zoo-based conservation action, and the extent to which zoos can generate public engagement in 21st century conservation concerns.

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: None.

Course Syllabus:

Just about everyone has visited a zoo at one time or another (or maybe even visited multiple zoos multiple times). But, what does the average zoo-goer actually know about zoos? They are, at the same time, one way that people may experience aspects of the natural world (especially exotic wildlife), but also are perhaps relatively unknown to the general public in how they function. Zoos, in fact, present a microcosm of how humans interact with the natural world. In this course, we will undertake an examination of the multiple dimensions of interaction that exist between zoos, society (both zoo-goers and the broader general public), and the conservation research community, and consider what the future of zoos may hold.

A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course's OWL site on the first day of the Fall 2020 term.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

-identify and critically reflect upon the key perspectives concerning the role(s) that zoos currently play in the conservation of endangered species;

- show an appreciation of how an interdisciplinary approach grounded in anthropology can be used to examine the value, and future, of zoos in the 21st century;
- critically analyze and evaluate online content presented by zoos relating to public engagement and conservation education. This critical analysis and evaluation will include assessment of ongoing public and academic debates on a range of issues as they relate to course themes and the societal position zoos will hold in the future.
- hone transferable critical thinking skills that will have long-term applicability in your professional and life tool-kits.

Course Materials:

There is **not** a required textbook for this course.

Rather, in our examination of the multi-faceted nature of zoos, we will be making use of peer-reviewed articles drawn from academic journals such as *Zoo Biology*, *International Zoo Yearbook*, and *Conservation Biology* (among others). **All** the course readings are either from Open Access sources, or are drawn from academic journals which are available electronically through the [Western Libraries web portal](#).

Registered students will be able to access information about these journal article course readings through the course's on-line OWL site on the first day of the Fall 2020 academic term.

Evaluation:

The following is the breakdown of this course's evaluated work:

- Website Evaluation (10%)
- Key debates article critique (10%)
- Midterm Test (35%)
- Reflection: The Future of Zoos (10%)
- Final Exam (35%)

Note – Both the mid-term test and final exam will be structured as *take-home examinations*.

For the purposes of this procedure, a take-home examination is normally considered to be an assessment that could reasonably be completed by a well-prepared student in 6 hours or less. As a guideline, for long-answer and essay-based take-home examinations, the expectation is that completion of the assessment will require 2000 words or less.

Students will be provided online access to the examination at least 24 hours prior to the beginning of the examination slot assigned by the Office of the Registrar. Papers will be due by the end of the assigned examination slot, and will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism.

Academic Integrity - Statement on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where

appropriate and by proper referencing. It is also a scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

All required papers and take-home midterms and exams may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com).

Statement on Seeking Special Accommodations:

No accommodations will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after an assignment's due date or a missed quiz or test. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you will be seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds.

Please note that in cases of medical accommodation, Provincial privacy regulations mean that course instructors should not, and are not permitted to, receive medical documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for Academic Accommodation on medical grounds, or for other reasons. All medical documentation required to account for absences that are not covered by the SRA (Self-Reported Absence) policy **must be submitted to the Academic Counselling Office of a student's Home Faculty**. The Policy on:

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see: [Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

[Student Medical Certificate \(SMC\)](#)

Should the Academic Counselling Office, in conjunction with other Faculties, revise policy recommendations related to this, you will be updated by an Announcement on the course OWL site.

Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty Academic Counselling Office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Institutional Statements and Policies

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and medical accommodation. These policies are outlined in Western's academic policies by clicking on this link: [Western's academic policies](#).

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