ANTHROPOLOGY 2264G-001
Issues in Primate Conservation
Department of Anthropology
BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE
Winter 2022

Version date: July 20, 2021

Class day/time: Mondays, 1:30-4:30 pm
Classroom: SSC 3028
Instructor: Dr. Ian Colquhoun
Office: SSC 3428
Office hours: TBD
Email: colquhou@uwo.ca (contact me about anything concerning the course!)
Credit value: 0.5 credit

Requisites:
Antirequisites: None.
Prerequisites: Any Arts and Humanities or Social Science 0.5 or 1.0 Essay course, or permission of the instructor.

Course Description:
Since 2000, Conservation International, together with the International Primatological Society and the IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group, have collaborated in issuing a biennial list of the World's 25 Most Endangered Primates (2000-02, 2002-04, 2004-06, 2006-08, 2008-10, 2010-12, 2012-14, 2014-16, 2016-18, and 2018-20). The Primates in Peril "Top 25" is not an "official" listing (like the IUCN/SSC Red Data List –generally referred to in the media as the "Endangered Species List"), but has instead served as a media tool to raise public awareness about where conservation action is most needed. In this course, the Top 25 Most Endangered Primates will serve as a backdrop to our consideration of the spectrum of conservation issues confronting primatologists today. Topics to be examined will include: the conservation assessment process (how do we determine that a species/sub-species is endangered?); major variables for understanding the conservation biology of nonhuman primate populations (what is going on?); strategies and tactics in primate conservation (what will work where?); biogeographic patterns in, and perspectives on, factors contributing to the decline of nonhuman primate populations (what is going on in Madagascar, Africa, Asia, and the Neotropics?); and, how ethnoprimatology -- the study of the interactions between humans and nonhuman primate populations -- can be a useful tool in primate conservation.
Learning Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- navigate the conservation literature relating to nonhuman primate species, appreciate the incredible biodiversity represented by the members of the Order Primates, and understand the range of conservation threats to that biodiversity;
- exhibit familiarity with the ecological processes involved in habitat disturbance and fragmentation, and population responses to those pressures;
- be aware of the ongoing efforts to monitor the conservation statuses of primate populations and species, be able to communicate conservation strategies and tactics, and appreciate the increasing importance of involving local communities in conservation efforts;
- recognize how different primate species in different “primate habitat” countries face different conservation pressures (and may respond to those pressures differently).

Course Materials:
The required text is:


Evaluation:
The following is the tentative breakdown of this course’s evaluated work:

- mid-term test (35% of final grade)
- short written assignment -- review and critical commentary dealing with a peer-reviewed primate conservation paper* (worth 10% of final grade; *details to follow),
- Conservation Action Plan (CAP) for a threatened or endangered primate species of your choice** (20% of final grade; **details to follow),
- final exam (35% of final grade)

END