

## ANTHROPOLOGY 4493F/9900A

### Special Topics in Anthropology: Anthropology of Conservation

#### COURSE OUTLINE

Fall 2022

*Version: Aug 8, 2022*

**Class day/time:** Thursdays, 9:30 am -- 12:30 pm  
(synchronous online seminar, via 'Zoom')

**Instructor:** Dr. Ian Colquhoun  
(see: [https://anthropology.uwo.ca/people/faculty/ian\\_colquhoun.html](https://anthropology.uwo.ca/people/faculty/ian_colquhoun.html) )

**Office:** SSC 3428

**Office hours:** By appointment (contact me by email to arrange a 'Zoom' meeting).

**Email:** [colquhou@uwo.ca](mailto:colquhou@uwo.ca)

**Credit value:** 0.5 credit.

#### 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;
- preserving/conserving indigenous languages;
- preserving/conserving "traditional ecological knowledge" (TEK);
- preserving/conserving architectural heritage;
- preserving/conserving electronic media; and,
- preserving/conserving cultural practices.

**Antirequisites:** None.

**Prerequisites:** None.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Students who successfully complete “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.

**Course Evaluation:**

- Seminar weekly participation: **15%**
- Short written assignments (related to visits to Weldon Rare Book Collection and 'Sustainable Archaeology'/'Museum of Ontario Archaeology'): 2 x 15% = **30%**
- Brief summary presentation to seminar group (based on research paper topic): **15%**
- Research paper (grad students can choose a conservation-related topic of relevance to their thesis/dissertation research): **40%**

**Student Absences:**

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below.

**Assessments worth 10% or more of the overall course grade:**

For work totalling 10% or more of the final course grade, you must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to the Academic Counselling Office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as possible. For further information, please consult the University’s medical illness policy at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

The Student Medical Certificate is available at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

**Absences from Final Examinations:**

There is no final exam in Anthro. 4493F/9900A.