

ANTHROPOLOGY 4493F/9900A

Special Topics in Anthropology: Anthropology of Conservation

PROVISIONAL COURSE OUTLINE

Fall 2022

Version: June 9, 2022

Class day/time: To be determined

Instructor: Dr. Ian Colquhoun (see:

https://anthropology.uwo.ca/people/faculty/ian_colquhoun.html)

Office: SSC 3428

Office hours: By appointment (over 'Zoom').

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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.

Evaluation:

- Seminar weekly 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%**