Welcome to the UGA Summer Study Abroad in Southern Africa

International Issues in Conservation
WILD 5200/7200 (6 credits)

This is a sample syllabus intended as a general guide only and deviations may be necessary (a final syllabus will be included in the course-book or available by contacting the office)

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Course Description

This course is heavily field-based and focuses on observation and research around native flora and fauna of the southern African region. We will spend approximately 8 hours a day in the field conducting research and participating in observations. Lecture topics will include, but are not limited to, identification and natural history of local flora and fauna, the ecology and soils of the Bushveld region, animal behavior and tracking techniques, basic bush survival skills, and conservation and sustainable management of natural resources. Lecture topics will be contextualized in the South African perspective.

Course Objectives

The purpose of this program is to familiarize students with issues in International Wildlife Management and to provide a firsthand understanding of the natural history of the bushveld in eastern Botswana and South Africa. We also seek to familiarize students with mammal, avian and reptile biology, including anatomy and physiology, behavior, ecology, evolution, and conservation. The program provides a firsthand understanding of the natural history of the bushveld of eastern Botswana and northern South Africa leading into an introduction to wildlife conservation. There are a number of mandatory pre-trip lectures to familiarize students with place, culture, and the natural history of the study area, and will include homework assignments, quizzes, and exams just as any university course.

Course Credit

Credit is offered for 6 semester hours at the undergraduate level (5200) or graduate level (7200).

Required Texts


Optional Texts


Prerequisites

All students in good academic standing are eligible to take the course. There are no prerequisites.

Attendance

Punctual attendance at all scheduled program–related activities is required, including group meetings, discussions, field excursions, as well as lectures and any other scheduled activities. Participation in field activities (such as hiking, snorkeling, swimming, etc.) is voluntary and at the discretion of the student; however, should you wish not to participate you must inform the instructor. An excused absence or decision not to participate in one or any of these field activities will not affect your course grade. During the field studies, no student may leave the group without the consent of the faculty supervisor. Unless an absence is approved by one of the instructors or the program director, students will lose 10% of their final grade for each day or part-day they fail to participate. Unexcused absences or chronic late arrival to program activities may, at the discretion of the Program Director, be grounds for dismissal from the program.

Late and Missed Assignments

Because of the nature of this course and the tight schedule, assignments are not accepted late without prior approval from the instructor.

Academic Honesty

All academic work must meet the standards contained in the University's Culture of Honesty policy (www.uga.edu/honesty). All students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. The penalties for academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) award of a failing grade for the course, suspension, notification placed on the student’s transcript of their having been found guilty of cheating, and expulsion from the university, and ignorance is not an acceptable defense. Academic dishonesty will be reported to the University Academic Policy Panel.

Special Accommodations

Any student(s) who require special accommodation(s) or other requirements in this course must contact the instructor before or at the UGA on-campus orientation and register with UGA Disability Resource Center (www.drc.uga.edu). Some activities include moderate exercise, such as hiking and snorkeling.

Pre-Trip Lectures

Pre-Trip Lectures are held on the following Wednesdays from 6-8:00pm in Warnell room 1-209.

February 18
Preparation/Equipment Supply
List/Documents and Releases
February 25
Introduction to Botswana and South Africa
History of Botswana and South Africa
March 4
Trees/Biomes

March 9
  Spring Break (no class)
March 18
  Herpetology
March 25
  Mammals
April 1
  Ornithology
April 8
  Biogeography
April 15
  Pre-Trip Test
April 22
  Final Pre-Trip Meeting

**Participation is Mandatory**

Students must attend all lectures and field trips—your grades will reflect attendance. Actively participate in class by asking questions and during the field trip activities.

**Grade Assessment**

Your grade will be based on a total of 300 points, split between one pre-trip lecture exam (100 points), a field trip journal (100 points) and one final lecture exam (100 points).

Final grades will be assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 – 100 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>89.5 – 92.9 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 – 89.4 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 – 86.9 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>79.5 – 82.9 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 – 79.4 percent</td>
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<td>73 – 76.9 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>69.5 – 72.9 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>59.5 - 69.4 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 59.4 percent</td>
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**Course Itinerary**

Refer to the sample itineraries available online. Final itineraries will be distributed on arrival in-country or contact the office for the most recent version.