ARTS2244

Rethinking Wildlife: Philosophy, Biodiversity, Extinction

Term Three // 2020

School of Humanities and Languages // UNSW Arts and Social Sciences

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Colin Salter	c.salter@unsw.edu.au	Please contact via email		

School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

Location: School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, 258

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

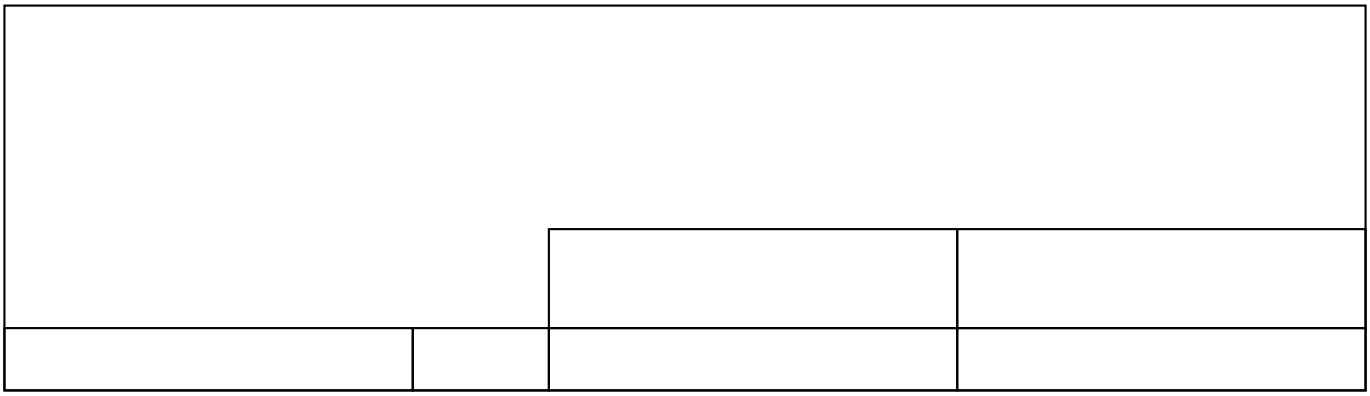
In this course you will explore philosophical and political issues in wildlife conservation from a range of disciplinary perspectives. Key topics include: the future of ‘urban wildlife’; the divide between native and introduced species; the role of gene banking and cloning in conserving and possibly resurrecting endangered species; and the frequent conflicts between conservation priorities on the one hand and animal welfare or local people’s autonomy and subsistence on the other. To explore these topics you will design your own research project, combining interviews with textual research to better understand human/wildlife relations in their cultural, ethical and/or political complexity (no prior ethnographic research experience is required).

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Explain the historical and philosophical development of biodiversity conservation, its underlying analytic frameworks and its shifting priorities.
2. Explain how cultural and political factors impact upon understandings, valuations and efforts to conserve endangered wildlife.
3. Analyse the complex intersection between cultural and biological/ecological approaches to conservation issues.
4. Apply selected disciplinary approaches to the understanding of biodiversity and extinctions; and draw on a range of different disciplinary approaches to explore some of the multifaceted ways in which wildlife matters (to people and larger ecosystems).
5. Apply skills of critical analysis, problem-solving and interpretation in both written work and in-class discussions.
6. Conduct independent research and assemble, synthesise and communicate findings and interpretations.

Teaching Strategies

This course asks students to engage with theoretical work that challenges foundational assumptions about the world and the objectives of conservation and environmentalism more generally. The core objective of this course is to familiarise students with this difficult material through lectures, in-depth tutorial discussions, independent research, and the preparation of assessment tasks.



This is the final assessment task for attendance purposes.

Submission notes:See the course's Moodle website.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 3: Reflections and reading reviews

Start date:

Length: 1000

Details:

Reflective exercises and online discussion posts for prescribed weeks across the term. 1750 words in total.

Online discussions will form the basis of small-group activities and in-class activities. Detailed feedback will provided on reflections. A marking guide will be provided in advance.

Submission notes:04/10/2020 11:00 PM

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 4: Group presentation

Start date:

Details:

Overview of case study and field research project, identifying research methodology and key questions.

Detailed feedback will be provided on group presentation. A marking guide will be provided in advance.

Submission notes:See the course's Moodle website.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Not available

Recommended Resources

Not available

Course Evaluation and Development

Courses are periodically reviewed and students' feedback is used to improve them. Feedback is gathered from students using myExperience. It is encouraged students complete their surveys by

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.
http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
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