University of Florida
Department of Anthropology
ANT 4930/ANG 6930
Primate Conservation
Fall 2020

Class Days and Time:
Wednesdays: 10:40-12:35
Fridays: 10:40-11:30
Office Location: Turlington Hall, B123
Instructor: Dr. Kim Valenta
Email: kimvalenta@ufl.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

Contacting the Instructor: I will be available to meet online with students for questions about the assigned readings, written or other course assignments, and general discussion about conservation, primates, and field work. *Please do not hesitate to email me*; I will respond to emails received Monday-Friday within 24 hours, and by Monday morning at the latest to emails received on Saturday-Sunday.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Primates, the mammalian order to which humans belong, face endangerment and extinction around the world. Human-induced disturbances such as climate change, habitat loss, and the illegal pet trade are partially responsible for the endangered or critically endangered status of ~60% of primate species. We will examine intrinsic and extrinsic risk factors within the framework of environmental ethics, conservation biology and evolutionary theory. After completing the course, students will be able to:

- Confidently discuss the status of primate populations, identify major threats to their survival, and explain common approaches to conservation;
- Analyze the efficacy of particular conservation strategies under real-world circumstances;
- Critically evaluate applied conservation initiatives.

NOTE: This is a *seminar* course, and thus differs from a typical lecture-format class. Seminar courses, unlike instructor-led courses, are a team effort – you will get out of this class what you put into it. As members of the team, you are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the information in the readings, and the ecological and ethical issues raised by them in a thoughtful and substantive way. I challenge each of you to view this class as an investment in your education, as well as a means by which to become part of the solution…

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Before and during my academic life, I became heavily involved in non-profit and wildlife conservation work, primarily through the Toronto Wildlife Center, and other North American-based NGOs. My academic background is primarily in tropical ecology and biology, and I've conducted research in Panama, Costa Rica, Uganda and Madagascar. While in Madagascar, I

quickly became aware that I was on the frontline of a conservation crisis, and witnessing primate species extirpations first hand. My experiences in primate ecology, international field sites, and the world of non-profit conservation organizations led me to co-found a primate conservation organization in Madagascar in 2012, which I continue to serve as director for today. These experiences together have led me to a lifelong dedication to conservation, and will help to inform the content of the course and the practical skills I hope to impart to you as a student. I encourage you to bring your unique experiences, skills, and interests to the work we do in this class, along with an openness to new perspectives and ideas.

ASSIGNED READINGS

There is no required text for this class. Assigned reading(s) are listed in the class schedule below. Supplemental materials will be posted at least one week prior to class via Canvas. In order to facilitate robust and informed discussion, you are expected to complete all required readings prior to class.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

- **PARTICIPATION/ CLASS DISCUSSIONS (100%)** - All students MUST read all assigned papers. Your participation grade will be based on your contributions to the larger class discussion. Questions and comments on the reading should be prepared and with you during seminar. Attendance is the most critical component of student learning in this class and is required. If you know that you will not be in class, please contact me at least 72 hours in advance so that we can determine an appropriate make-up assignment (typically a written reading response). More than one unexcused absence will result in a half-grade deduction from your grade. More than two unexcused absences from the discussion forum will result in a full grade deduction from your grade.

Academic Accommodations: I will strive to ensure an equitable learning environment for all students; however, it is the responsibility of the student to request academic accommodations.

Classroom Etiquette and Culture: In this course, we will be discussing controversial issues that may lead to heated debate. To foster a culture of intelligent and respectful discourse, I expect you to attend all course meetings and come prepared to participate, listen to your classmates, and respond thoughtfully to opposing points of view.

Grading Schema

Grade	Range	Grade	Range
A+	97.0-100	C+	77.0-79.9
A	93.0-96.9	C	73.0-76.9
A-	90.0-92.9	C-	70.0-72.9
B+	87.0-89.9	D+	67.0-69.9

B	83.0-86.9	D	63.0-66.9
B-	80.0-82.9	D-	60.0-62.9
		F	0.0-59.9

Disclaimer about Changes to the Syllabus:
This is a proposed schedule that may change as the semester progresses. If changes to the syllabus need to be made due to unforeseen circumstances, I will provide updates in a timely fashion and ensure that enough time is provided to complete readings and assignments.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Date	Topic/Activity	Reading	Discussant/presenter	Notes
Wed Sept 2	Introduction to the course			
Fri Sept 4	What is conservation biology?	Soule 1985		
Wed Sept 9	Conservation for what?	http://theconversation.com/lets-give-feral-cats-their-citizenship-45165		
Fri Sept 11	Compassionate conservation	Moore et al 2014; Ramp and Bekoff 2015; Paquet and Darimont 2010;		
Wed Sept 16	Does biodiversity matter?	Barlow et al. 2018;		
Fri Sept 18	Does primate conservation matter?	Estrada et al. 2017; Estrada 2013		
Wed Sept 23	Bushmeat	Bowen-Jones and Pendry 1999; Minhos et al 2013; Alves et al 2010		
Fri Sept 25	The pet trade	Reuter et al 2015; Nijman et al 2011; Duarte-Quiroga and Estrada 2003		
Wed Sept 30	Extinction	Purvis et al 2000; Ceballos et al 2015		
Fri Oct 2	NO CLASS - HOMECOMING			
Wed Oct 7	Primate tourism – is it a useful tool for conservation?	Russon and Wallace, 2014; Isaacs 2000; Adams and Infield 2003		
Fri Oct 9	Invasive species	Eppley et al 2016		Be ready to choose your

				discussion topic!
Wed Oct 14	Lecture: The Mad Dog Initiative			
Fri Oct 16	Habitat fragmentation, degradation and loss	Isaac and Cowlishaw, 2004; Harcourt and Doherty 2005; Almeida-Rocha et al. 2017		
Wed Oct 21	Forest fragmentation and edge effects	Onderdonk and Chapman 2000; Gregory et al 2017; Lehman et al 2006		
Fri Oct 23	Climate change	Campos et al. 2017; Brook 2008		
Wed Oct 28	Disease ecology	Gillespie et al. 2008; Herrerra and Nunn, 2019;		
Fri Oct 30	Disease ecology continued	Clayton et al. 2016		
Wed Nov 4	Captive breeding and reintroductions	Cheyne 2009; Wyner et al. 1999; Leader-Williams et al. 2007		
Fri Nov 6	Conservation – who is responsible?	Williams, 2001		
Wed Nov 11	NO CLASS – VETERANS' DAY			
Fri Nov 13	Conservation – who pays?	Poudyal et al. 2018; van Houton 2005		
Wed Nov 18	Conservation psychology	Saunders 2003; Clayton 2005; Selinske et al. 2018		
Fri Nov 20	Student's choice TBD			
Wed Nov 25 & Fri Nov 27	NO CLASS – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!			
Wed Dec 2	Student's choice TBD			
Fri Dec 4	Student's choice TBD			
Wed Dec 9	Course summary and final thoughts	Petrovan et al. 2018		