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ARTS2244

Rethinking Wildlife: Philosophy, Biodiversity, Extinction

Term Three // 2019

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Colin Salter	c.salter@unsw.edu.au			

School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

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

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

Phone: +61 2 9385 1681

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Email: hal@unsw.edu.au

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *Environmental Humanities*

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.

Assessment

Research ethics will be discussed during Week 2 classes. The HREA (ethics) application form must be submitted and approved before you can begin your fieldwork.

You **must** attend the lecture and tutorial in Week 2 or you will not meet UNSW's requirements for field research preparation. If you miss *either* the lecture or the tutorial you will be required to do some additional reading, sit a quiz, and meet with me to discuss the relevant content before you are able to conduct any field research.

More details will be given in class in Week 1.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Research Plan	20%	06/10/2019 11:00 PM	1,2,6
Final report	35%	25/11/2019 04:00 PM	2,3,4,5,6
Reflections and reading reviews	25%	Not Applicable	2,3,5
Group presentation	20%	Not Applicable	1,2,3,4,5,6

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Research Plan

Start date: Not Applicable

Details: Detailed overview of proposed ethnographic field research project. Includes a completed UNSW/HREA ethics application form. 1250 words. Detailed feedback will be provided to assist students in developing their research project to produce the best possible final report and dissemination of findings in the 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

Assessment 2: Final report

Start date: Not Applicable

Details: Written report which brings field research into conversation with theoretical material. 2000 words. Detailed feedback will be provided on the final report. A marking guide will be provided in advance. 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: Not Applicable

Details: Reflective exercises and online discussion posts for prescribed weeks across the semester. 1750 words in total. Online discussions will form the basis of small-group activities and in-class activities. Detailed feedback will be provided on reflections. A marking guide will be provided in advance.

Submission notes: See the course's Moodle website.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 4: Group presentation

Start date: Not Applicable

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

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 16 September - 20 September	Lecture	Rethinking Wildlife: Introductions Course overview; key concepts and approaches.
Week 2: 23 September - 27 September	Lecture	Entanglements across species and communities. Research methods What is wildlife? How are our lives intertwined? Attendance is compulsory to pass the course.
Week 3: 30 September - 4 October	Lecture	Political theories What are the socio-political underpinnings of attitudes and responsibilities towards Other animals and wildlife? How has and does political theory engage with such attitudes and responsibilities?
Week 4: 7 October - 11 October	Module	Ethical duties, responsibilities Ethical thought about animals in general (utilitarianism, rights). Animal welfare and environmentalism (conflicting positions?). The ethical significance of being a wild animal.
Week 5: 14 October - 18 October	Lecture	Race, class and species. Exploring human/animal borderlands What roles do race and class play in shaping attitudes and responsibilities towards Other animals and wildlife?
Week 6: 21 October - 25 October	Module	Native and Invasive: who belongs? What does it mean to be 'invasive'? – who counts as native and who is introduced? Killing native and invasive species for conservation, practicalities and ethics? 'Rewilding' environments?
Week 7: 28 October - 1 November	Lecture	The politics of biodiversity, endangered species and extinction What is biodiversity and when did we begin to think about the environment in this way? Should we attempt to conserve species (and how)? Does the extinction of species matter? Should we be trying to resurrect extinct species?
Week 8: 4 November - 8 November	Lecture	Urban wildlife, cohabitation. Contemporary issues facing wildlife in urban places. Making space for wildlife in the city, practicalities and ethics. Other animals as 'pests' in the city.

Week 9: 11 November - 15 November		Research Presentations
Week 10: 18 November - 22 November	Lecture	Research Presentations & course review Drawing the threads. Intersections and challenges.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

See the course's Moodle website.

Recommended Resources

See the course's Moodle website.

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 accessing the personalised web link via the Moodle course site.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

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:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- 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;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

Image Credit

Greg O'Beirne (2016). Australian White Ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*), Darling Harbour, Sydney, Australia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibis#/media/File:AustralianWhitelbis_gobeirne.jpg

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