NS 2044- Field Studies in Wildlife Conservation

Study Abroad: Botswana - Landmark College
4 credits
SUMMER 2017 (July 29- August 19)

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Stein
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Class meeting times

Monday- Friday: 10am – 5 pm with occasional night and weekend exercises

Office Hours

By Appointment

Required Text:

TBD

Course Description

In this course, we will explore wildlife conservation issues in the two iconic ecosystems of southern Africa- the Kalahari and the Okavango Delta! As part of our studies we will learn about the ecological processes in each system while focusing on the conservation of large carnivores. In our first field study, we will learn about the various land use systems in Botswana, field techniques for surveying wildlife populations in the desert, and discussing the challenges of raising livestock in areas of high leopard conflict. We plan to visit Orapa Game Park to learn about the state of Rhino conservation in Africa. Next we will visit the world famous Tsodillo Hills site of ancient rock paintings! Our final field site will be the Okavango Delta, where we will compare ecosystem function with the Kalahari, survey wildlife and learn about the conservation efforts in the region to protect lions, elephants and the property of villagers. We will have the opportunity to visit with lion researchers who understand the challenges of field conservation of this iconic species.

This course is open to any Landmark student who wishes to gain a deeper understanding of the living world

Prerequisites

EN 1011/1015, FY1011/1001 and NS course (or permission of instructor)

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

Following successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

Course Objective	General Education Goal	Course Assessment
Generate hypotheses based on observations and prior knowledge	Comprehend and apply the methods of scientific inquiry and engage in quantitative reasoning.	Textbook reading, Assignments, Quizzes, Project Write up, and Tests
Design inquiry that allows these hypotheses to be tested	Comprehend and apply the methods of scientific inquiry and engage in quantitative reasoning.	Project Write up, Assignments, and Tests
Deduce the expected results	Comprehend and apply the methods of scientific inquiry and engage in quantitative reasoning.	Project Write up, Assignments, and Tests
Gather and analyze data to compare the actual results to the expected outcomes	Comprehend and apply the methods of scientific inquiry and engage in quantitative reasoning.	Project Write up
Make and communicate conclusions and generate new questions raised by observations and results	Communicate with clarity, coherence and persuasiveness through written, oral and other modes of expression. Comprehend and apply the methods of scientific inquiry and engage in quantitative reasoning.	Presentation, Field Notebook
Apply strategies to comprehend technical language	Sustain an ongoing process of self-reflection, self-awareness and self-advocacy that leads to both self- understanding and the successful management of the skills and strategies of a life-long learner. Read critically in order to gain disciplinary knowledge and to explore	Exams, Assignments, Project Write up

	important questions and ideas.	
Interpret and represent graphic information	Communicate with clarity, coherence and persuasiveness through written, oral and other modes of expression. Comprehend and apply the methods of scientific inquiry and engage in quantitative reasoning.	Project Write up
Identify, understand and follow sequential steps in processes	Comprehend and apply the methods of scientific inquiry and engage in quantitative reasoning. Read critically in order to gain disciplinary knowledge and to explore important questions and ideas.	Assignments, Project Write up

Methods of Assessment

Category	Percentage of course grade
Assignments	10%
Quizzes	10%
Field Notebook	30%
Project Write up	12%
Project Presentation	12%
Exams (2 at 7% each)	14%
Participation	12%

Course Structure

Reading and Quizzes

Readings will be assigned regularly from the text. Reading assignments will usually be accompanied by guiding questions as a part of the homework assignment.

Quizzes

You will be expected to identify local animals and tracks as part of your wildlife surveys, therefore you will be given quizzes on animal species and tracks.

Project Write up

As part of your work, you will be working with a small group to analyze and write up the results of your group project. These projects may be related to our wildlife surveys, villager interviews or habitat assessments

Project Presentations

As well as the project write up, you will be expected to present the results of your project to the class as well as local community members.

Field Notebooks

You will be required to keep a field notebook based on your experiences at various points in the course. These entries may be related to wildlife, habitat, encounters with villagers or off time in camp.

Exam

The final exam will be cumulative based on comparisons between our two field sites in culture, land-use, wildlife and conflict issues.

Attendance

Missed classes will not be repeated, so each is important! You are expected to attend every class unless you are ill. Any classes missed will impact your participation grade.

Class cancellation in the event of extreme weather

Since we will be all living and traveling together and we will be in Botswana in the middle of the dry season, class cancellations are unlikely.

Moodle

Since internet access will be limited, we will not use moodle as a major component of this course.

Cell Phones and other electronic devices

Due to the distraction of cell phones and like devices in classes, all students are required to power off phones at the beginning of the class. There are no exceptions to this rule**. I have no tolerance for the non-academic use of cell phones during class.**

Course Schedule (subject to change)-

Day 1	Travel from U.S. to Maun (possibly stay in Johannesburg for the night depending on flights)
Day 2	Arrive in Maun and relax
Day 3	Day Trip to Moremi Game Reserve/ NG34 to see wildlife (must pay community escort guides)

Day 4	Drive to Orapa Game Park
Day 5	Orientation in Orapa Game Park/ Setting Camera Traps
Day 6	Lessons on the Kalahari Ecosystem/ Kubu Island Trip
Day 7	Wildlife Count Lesson/ Field Exercise
Day 8	Rhino Poaching Lecture and Activity
Day 9	Collecting and Analyzing Camera Traps
Day 10	Return to Maun
Day 11	Day in Maun- reliable internet, shops
Day 12	Maun to Seronga with a stop at Tsodillo Hills to see ancient Rock Paintings (local guide)
Day 13	Orientation in Okavango Delta Ecosystem
Day 14	Setting Camera Traps
Day 15	Wildlife Counts/ Lion Tracking
Day 15	Meetings with Local Authorities and Design Questionnaires
Day 16	Eretsha Village Day/ Questionnaires/ Cultural Performance
Day 17	Camera Trap Retrieval
Day 18	Analysis Day
Day 19	Analysis and Mokorro Trip
Day 20	Arrive in Maun for Trip Wrap Up
Day 21	Fly Out from Maun
Day 22	Arrive back in the U.S.

Course Structure

Readings – Readings will be assigned regularly from the text and supplemental sources. Students are expected to actively read assignments: highlight pertinent material, look up unknown vocabulary terms, take notes for review, generate questions/comments, etc. It is essential that all readings be completed on time so that you are fully prepared for discussions on the material. Short quizzes on reading content will be regularly administered.

Writing Assignments – Writing assignments are given to help reinforce class discussions and textbook reading. Formal lab reports will be expected for 4 laboratory exercises. For the remaining labs, there will be discussion questions that must be turned in before the next week's lab. All written work must be typed, spell checked, and proofread for errors. Unless arrangements have been made with the professor(s) prior to the due date, late papers will be marked off 10 points and will not be accepted beyond one week late. Writing assignments are often handed back with suggestions and may be corrected and returned within two weeks for full credit.

Unless prior arrangements have been made, written assignments must be turned in on their due date, even if the student is absent from class that day.

Class Presentation – Each student will be asked to discuss answers to home-work questions in class. You will be notified ahead of time so that you will be prepared.

Laboratories – Labs will be held most afternoons to reinforce the techniques we have learned in the morning. We will have assignments and discussions at the end of each day to ensure that the labs were affective.

Examinations – Exam will cover material from each of the study areas and comparisons between them. Study guides will be provided.

Landmark College Policies

For information on:

→ Landmark College Student Code of Conduct
http://www.landmark.edu/m/uploads/Student_Handbook_2014-2015.pdf

→ Academic Honesty and Plagiarism
http://www.landmark.edu/academics/office-of-academic-affairs/academic-policies1/academic-dishonesty-and-plagiarism

→ Academic Recording Policy
http://www.landmark.edu/academics/office-of-academic-affairs/academic-policies1/policy-on-classroom-recording

→ Request for Accommodations
http://www.landmark.edu/campus-life/vice-president-for-student-affairs/request-for-accomodations

Besides the policies described in the Study Abroad handbooks, students should be aware of the following:

Landmark College Student Code of Conduct:

The following standards of conduct are examples and general expectations for all student members of the Landmark College community:

1. **Honesty**: Students will exhibit honesty in academic endeavors and in all aspects of campus life.

2. **Safety**: Students will make a commitment to contribute to a safe, clean, congenial, and productive learning environment.

3. **Understanding**: Students will make a commitment to understand their own strengths and challenges, and to work towards academic and personal growth.

4. **Respect for Others**: Students will show respect for the feelings, time, efforts, and physical well-being of others, and for their capacity for growth.

5. **Respect for Property**: Students will show respect for the property and materials of Landmark College as well as the personal property of all members of the Landmark community.

6. **Respect for Community**: Students will respect the rules and regulations of Landmark College and its governing bodies, and the laws of the State of Vermont and of the United States.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism

As an academic community, Landmark strives to instill and foster intellectual honesty and integrity. Effective evaluation of student work can occur only in an environment where intellectual honesty is respected. Academic dishonesty, which includes the inappropriate giving or receiving of aid during any test situation, is a clear violation of academic integrity.

To plagiarize is to give the impression that a thought or a piece of writing is original, when, in fact, it was borrowed from another. A form of academic dishonesty, plagiarism is a violation of intellectual integrity and academic responsibility.

The individual student is responsible for ensuring that his or her work does not involve plagiarism. Ignorance of the nature of plagiarism or of Landmark rules may not be offered as a mitigating circumstance. Students with questions on matters of plagiarism should consult their English course instructor and the instructor of the course for whom they are preparing work.

The minimum penalty for plagiarism is no credit (recorded as a zero for the purpose of determining the student's course grade) in the unit of work in which plagiarism has occurred. The maximum penalty for first offense plagiarism is failure for the course in which the plagiarism occurred; in cases of repeated offense, suspension or expulsion from Landmark may be imposed. No opportunity may be granted to make up or otherwise fulfill the requirements of the unit of work involved. A student suspended from Landmark may not transfer to Landmark any course credits earned at other institutions during the period of suspension.