

WILD 5200-7200 International Issues in Conservation
Maymester/Summer 2010 – 6 credits
Study Abroad in South Africa

Course Description

The purpose of WILD 5750/7750, International Wildlife Management, is to provide a first hand understanding the natural history of the lowveld of South Africa leading into and introduction the types issues facing wildlife managers throughout the world. This first try at the course in South Africa offers many opportunities and challenges. The shock of exiting an airplane in a foreign country can be quite intimidating to even seasoned travelers. Very often fear is the response to a lack of understanding of a completely different place. As always, knowledge is power. We decided to develop several projects for the students enrolled in the course to provide familiarity to the place and culture. Although these will never completely remove the anxiety of being dropped in completely new world they should ease the adjustment.

Course Outline

1. Welcome and Introduction, The game drive vehicle
2. Ecotourism and Guiding, Spotlighting
3. Field guiding as a profession, Basic 4x4 driving
4. Attributes, skills and duties of a field guide, Planning of game drives and walks
5. Bush navigation and orientation, Radio procedures
6. Ecology, Reptiles
7. Geology, Amphibians
8. Soils, Sensitivity
9. Weather, Anticipating animal behaviour
10. Plant communities, Astronomy
11. Plant identification and uses, Identification and ecology of invertebrates
12. Grasses, Bush habitat management principles
13. Presentation skills, Photography and binoculars
14. Animal tracks and tracking, Communication and facilitation skills
15. Bird identification and behaviour, Dealing with guests
16. Animal behaviour, Sustainable development and the wise use of natural resources
17. Approaching dangerous game Ecotourism and local communities
18. Setting up a bush camp, Taxonomy
19. Sleepout in the bush, Working in the industry
20. Bush skills and survival, Career opportunities
21. Dangerous game / Rifle handling, Testing and evaluations

Course Expectations

Students will develop an understanding and field skills in an African setting. At the completion of the course the students will be expected to be comfortable in working in a bush setting and have a basic understanding of the flora and fauna of the region. Complimentary skill in bush

survival and navigation, off-road driving and weapon use are required. Requisite for completion of the course is successful completion of certification testing in game rangering.

Grading

Students will be evaluated using a variety of measures including examinations, individual and team projects, verbal presentations, participation, and written assignments on pertinent topics.

Text and Readings

Text and field guides will be assigned. Other materials will be provided.

Academic Honesty

Students in this course are expected to read and follow the University of Georgia Honor Code and Academic Honesty Policy

Instructor

2010 Instructor
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