

## The University of Findlay

Summer 2022

**The mission of The University of Findlay is to equip our students for meaningful lives and productive careers.**

**Course Number:** ANSC 457: Anatomy, Behavior, and Conservation of African Big Cats

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Class Time/Place:** **Loop Abroad South Africa** Session 1: May 28-June 12; Session 2: June 11-June 26; Session 3: June 25-July 10; Session 4: July 9-July 24; Session 5: July 23-August 7

**Prerequisites, Co-requisites and Course Description:**

This 2-week course takes place at one of our South African project partner sites that has a focus on African Big Cat breeding and or conservation.

The course will involve learning about the host organization's work, conducting innovative enrichment projects for its animals, and using the center's site for a relaxed and isolated environment from which to learn about African big cats. Students will also go on an overnight safari through a National Park where they will have an opportunity to meet and ask questions to a local veterinarian.

**Instructor:** Hezy Anholt, DVM; Quintin Gray Jr, DVM; AJ Runey, DVM, DVM

**Instructor Contact Information:** TBA

**Office Hours:** upon request

**Course Objectives:**

The following Learning Objectives will be addressed or assessed as part of the course:

- **Remember** how to identify major species of African wildlife
- **Understand** the comparative anatomy of African big cats
- **Understand** field anesthesia and **Apply** knowledge gained to operate a projectile drug delivery device
- **Analyze** major conservation strategies, such as using 'charismatic megafauna' to promote the conservation of whole ecosystems

- **Analyze** the history and contemporary perspectives on zoos, shelters, and ecotourism and their development and animal welfare impacts
- **Analyze** the ethics and obligations of veterinarians in the context of contemporary habitat destruction
- **Evaluate** animal welfare in captivity
- **Create** an ethogram and enrichment project for a specific African animal or group of animals

**Required Textbooks and Other Materials:**

- Loop Abroad's: ABC's of Big Cats Coursepack
- Materials for notes (notebook and/or laptop, writing utensils, etc.), wrist watch, snacks, refillable water bottle, insect repellent, and sunscreen.
- You may be asked to wear specific clothing items on certain days depending on the projects at hand.

**Instructional Strategies:**

|                                     |   |                                 |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|
| Case Analysis                       | x | Library and Internet Research   | x |
| Debate                              | x | Practice/drill                  | x |
| Discovery/Independent Research      | x | Problem solving                 | x |
| Discussion/Questioning/Interviewing | x | Reading assignments             | x |
| Experiential Learning               | x | Role playing/simulation games   | x |
| Field Experience                    | x | Service Learning                | x |
| Group Presentation                  | x | Video/Audio Review and Critique |   |
| Laboratory Experiences              | x | Other                           |   |
| Lecture                             | x |                                 |   |

**Methods of Assessment:** Your course grade will be determined as follows:

|                  |   |                 |   |
|------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Abstracts        |   | Participation   | x |
| Attendance       | x | Peer Evaluation |   |
| Capstone Project |   | Portfolio       |   |

|                                   |   |                           |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|
| Case Study                        |   | Portfolio Lab Performance |   |
| Exams                             | x | Presentations             | x |
| Group Projects                    | x | Professional Evaluation   |   |
| Homework Assignments              | x | Quizzes                   | x |
| Internet Research                 | x | Research project          |   |
| Journaling                        |   | Other                     |   |
| Lab Performance                   | x |                           |   |
| Oral/written review of literature |   |                           |   |

**Grading:** Your course grade will be determined as follows:

Exam: 40%

Assignments: 40%

Class Participation and Performance: 20%

**Grading Scale/Distribution:**

| <u>Grade</u> | <u>Points</u> | <u>Grading Scale</u> |
|--------------|---------------|----------------------|
| A            | 4.00          | 93-100               |
| A-           | 3.67          | 90-92                |
| B+           | 3.33          | 87-89                |
| B            | 3.00          | 83-86                |
| B-           | 2.67          | 80-82                |
| C+           | 2.33          | 77-79                |
| C            | 2.00          | 73-76                |
| C-           | 1.67          | 70-72                |
| D+           | 1.33          | 67-69                |
| D            | 1.00          | 63-66                |
| D-           | 0.67          | 62-60                |
| F            | 0.00          | below 60             |
| U            | 0.00          |                      |

**University Honor Code:**

Each and every student of the University will adhere to the following Honor Code:

“I will not knowingly engage in any dishonorable behavior, cheat, steal, lie, or commit any act of plagiarism during any academic work, course, or endeavor. If I observe an act which I believe violates the University’s Honor Code, I may, at my discretion, report it to the appropriate personnel.”

**Student Acknowledgement of University Honor Code:**

"I acknowledge that I have fully complied or will comply with all aspects of the University's Honor Code in submitting this work."

**Student Rights and Responsibilities Statement, Article VIII-Academic Integrity:**

<http://catalog.findlay.edu/en/current/Undergraduate-Catalog/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities-Statement/VIII-Academic-Integrity>

**University Diversity Statement:**

As part of our commitment to achieve excellence, the University of Findlay values and actively promotes a welcoming and supportive environment that honors the many aspects of diversity. We aspire to foster acceptance of, respect for, and appreciation of all persons in our campus community. We celebrate our commonalities and unique differences, and we acknowledge that diversity broadens learning, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and prepares our students for meaningful lives and productive careers.

**Course Policies and Practices:****Attendance and Participation Policy**

Students are expected to attend all class meetings for which they are registered. This is regarded as a matter of individual student responsibility. The only excused reasons for absences will be illness that impairs ability to attend and function within the classroom setting or an unavoidable personal emergency.

Students are expected to attend all class sessions on all days of class. It will be the responsibility of the student to contact the course instructor or site director, preferably before the absence, to provide the appropriate documentation and verification for the reason for the absence, and to make arrangements with the course instructor for missed work. Students are responsible for all missed class material. Students may be subject to limited participation in hands-on practice at the instructor's discretion if they have missed the underlying material needed to safely perform the task at hand.

**Final Exam Date: Session 1: June 11; Session 2: June 25; Session 3: July 9; Session 4: July 23; Session 5: August 6**

**Special Services:** If you are a student with a disability, it is your responsibility to inform your instructor and register with the Office of Disability Services ([ods@findlay.edu](mailto:ods@findlay.edu)) at least one week prior to a needed service so reasonable accommodations can be made.

**Course and Instructor Evaluation:** Each student is expected to complete the course and instructor evaluation which is sent electronically to the student by the Office of the Registrar. The electronic notification comes in the form of an e-mail from the UF Registrar's Office with the following subject line: Online survey for the designated course (e.g., BIOL 102).

**Last Date of Attendance Policy:** Instructors are required to indicate the last known date of attendance when a final grade of “F” or “U” is assigned to a student.

**Tentative Course Outline:**

At the project site, we will be helping take care of the center’s animals as well as making time for our class lectures and discussions. During our National Park excursion, we will be participating in several safaris as well as learning from staff veterinarians about their role in the conservation and care of wildlife.

Below is the list of tentative lecture topics and descriptions:

| <b>Lesson</b> | <b>Topic</b>                          | <b>Explanation</b>   |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Lesson 1      | African Big Cats                      | Classification, Conservation Status, General Anatomy and Physiology of African Big Cats<br>Activity: Anatomy Game                              |
| Lesson 2      | Cheetahs                              | Comparative Anatomy and Nutritional Management<br>Activity: Cheetah Food Kitchen   |
| Lesson 3      | Behavior and Animal Welfare           | Behavior, Assessing Animal Welfare in Captivity, and Specific Problems in Captive Big Cats<br>Activity: Ethogram and Animal Welfare Assessment |
| Lesson 4      | Environmental Enrichment              | Enrichment for Captive Animals<br>Activity: Enrichment Proposals, SPIDER method of enrichment  |
| Lesson 5      | Cheetah Genetics                      | Evolutionary History, Genetics, Herd Health, and Species Specific Concerns for Cheetahs<br>Activity: Case studies and health observations      |
| Lesson 6      | Medical Management                    | Preventative Medicine<br>Activity: Medical Rounds and Field Diagnostics  |
| Lesson 7      | Conservation and Research             | Conservation Efforts, Research and Specific Examples<br>Activity: Guest Lecture on Leopard Conservation and Case Examples                      |
| Lesson 8      | Capture and Restraint of Wild Animals | Capture, Anesthesia and Chemical Restraint, Animal Handling, and Release<br>Activity: Blow Dart Construction and Practice                      |
| Lesson 9      | Captive Breeding                      | Basic Theriogenology and Neonatal Health<br>Activity: Guest Lecture Cheetah Breeding, Cub interaction, Tour of Breeding Facility               |
| Lesson 10     | Vets in the Wild                      | One Health and Human-Animal Conflicts, Conservation Strategies<br>Activity: Discussion on ethics and gray areas of conservation                |