

# The University of Findlay

Fall 2022

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

**Course Number:** ANSC 446: Elephant Management and Medicine

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Class Time/Place:** Loop Abroad Thailand; October 17th-28th, 2022

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

This course focuses on variation in elephant management systems and practices and the medical management challenges elephants present in the clinical setting on-site at an elephant facility. Throughout this course, you have the chance to observe and practice elephant medicine and management in action. The block will focus on common and important diseases and medical conditions of elephants as well as conservation concerns of their species. You will study elephant anatomy, behavior, care, and their position in Thai global society. During this course, you will shadow and assist elephant veterinarians, trainers, and caretakers, and interact first-hand with the elephants.

**Instructor:** Erica Ward, DVM

**Instructor Contact Information:** [Erica@loopabroad.com](mailto:Erica@loopabroad.com), (617) 412-1743

**Office Hours:** upon request

## **Course Objectives:**

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

- **Understand** the unique anatomy and biology of elephants
- **Apply** knowledge gained to perform physical examinations, diagnostic and therapeutic techniques on elephants
- **Analyze** the different management systems and training practices for captive elephants
- **Analyze** infectious disease management in captive elephants
- **Analyze** diagnostic results in elephants including blood work, fecal examinations, cytologist, and physical exam findings
- **Evaluate** herd health measures employed by different elephant facilities

- **Evaluate** elephant behavior and assess their welfare in captivity
- **Evaluate** real-life examples of human-elephant conflict efforts that have been employed in Thailand
- **Create** a goal-based enrichment project for an elephant
- **Create** a differential list for history, physical exam, and diagnostic findings

**Required Textbooks and Other Materials:**

- Loop Abroad's: Elephant Care Course Reader
- Loop Abroad's: Elephant Management and Medicine Course Pack
- Fowler's Zoo and Wild Animal Medicine, 8th ed. Miller, Fowler, 2014.
- Biology, Medicine, and Surgery of Elephants, 1st ed. Fowler, Mikota, 2006.
- Materials for notes (notebook and/or laptop, writing utensils, etc.), wristwatch, snacks, refillable water bottle, insect repellent, and sunscreen.
- You may wear closed-toed shoes each day or leave a pair at the shelter throughout the course, but you should have them available each day. Your clothes will get dirty or ripped.

**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	
Field Experience	x	Service Learning	x
Group Presentation		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	
Group Projects	x	Professional Evaluation	x
Homework Assignments	x	Quizzes	
Internet Research		Research project	
Journaling		Other	
Lab Performance			
Oral/written review of literature			

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

Exam 1: 30%

Exam 2: 30%

Homework Assignments: 30%

Class Participation: 10%

Throughout this course, instructors will assess students on their participation in labs and activities both in and out of the classroom. To do well on this assessment:

- Be sure to do your best in all labs and activities and complete corresponding handouts and pages in workbook
- Be an active and engaged participant (pay attention during class, volunteer answers, ask questions, etc)
- Be a team player and be helpful to your peers and instructors both in and outside the classroom
- Be prepared and on time for all activities

Please note: this is not an exclusive list. A student's behavior, attitude, and actions throughout their Loop Abroad program may have an impact on their Participation and Performance Score.

**Grading Scale/Distribution:**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Grading Scale</b>
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 the 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:** February 18, 2022

**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:**

During this course, you will have the opportunity to observe and participate in elephant medical treatments on a daily basis. In addition, there will be lecture sessions and specially arranged lab sessions. Please keep in mind that the following schedule is preliminary and may be rearranged based on the needs of the host organization.

**Lecture topics:**

- Natural History, Ethics, and Management systems
- Elephant Anatomy
- Elephant Physical exams
- Elephant Behavior
- Elephant Welfare and Enrichment
- Positive Reinforcement Training for Medical Procedures in Elephants
- Clinical Pathology and diagnostics, Preventative Medicine, and Therapeutic Techniques
- Internal and external parasites
- Conservation and Human-Animal Conflict
- Elephant Foot care and conditions
- Elephant Nutrition
- Infectious diseases of Asian elephants
- Non-infectious diseases of Asian Elephants
- Theriogenology, Neonatal Care, and Musth Management
- Sedation, Anesthesia, Analgesia, and Surgery

**Lab Sessions:**

- Elephant volunteer activities

- Elephant Physical Exams
- Elephant Medical Treatments
- Enrichment Projects
- Positive Reinforcement Training with Elephants
- Cytology: blood smears, WBC identification, and estimated platelet counts
- Cytology: Fecal floats and parasite identification
- Foot trimming session
- Community Outreach

**Educational Documentaries:**

- Inside Nature's Giants Elephant Necropsy
- Attenborough and the Giant Elephant