

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: ANSC457: Anatomy, Behavior, and Conservation of African Big Cats

Credit Hours: 3

Class Time/Place: Loop Abroad South Africa Loop Abroad South Africa; September 11-25, 2022

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: Vivian Huacuja García, DVM; Tasch Sibilski

Instructor Contact Information: vivian.vhg@gmail.com; tasch@loopabroad.com

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.), wristwatch, 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	
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%

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:

<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 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: Session 1: September 23, 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) 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:

Lesson	Topic	Explanation
Lesson 1	African Big Cats	Classification, Conservation Status, General Anatomy and Physiology of African Big Cats Activity: Anatomy Game
Lesson 2	Cheetahs	Comparative Anatomy and Nutritional Management Activity: Big Cat Food Kitchen
Lesson 3	Behavior and Animal Welfare	Behavior, Assessing Animal Welfare in Captivity, and Specific Problems in Captive Big Cats Activity: Ethogram and Animal Welfare Assessment

Lesson 4	Environmental Enrichment	Enrichment for Captive Animals Activity: Enrichment Proposals, SPIDER method of enrichment
Lesson 5	Cheetah Genetics	Evolutionary History, Genetics, Herd Health, and Species Specific Concerns for Cheetahs Activity: Case studies and health observations
Lesson 6	Medical Management	Preventative Medicine Activity: Medical Rounds and Filed Diagnostics
Lesson 7	Conservation and Research	Conservation Efforts, Research and Specific Examples 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 Activity: Blow Dart Construction and Practice
Lesson 9	Captive Breeding	Basic Theriogenology and Neonatal Health 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 Activity: Discussion on ethics and gray areas of conservation