

The University of Findlay

College of Sciences

Summer 2026

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

Course Number: ASLA 446 Elephant Management and Medicine: Online

Credit Hours: 1.5 credits

Class Time/Place: Online

Prerequisites, Co-requisites and Course Description:

This course focuses on elephant management and medicine including anatomy, physiology, behavior, husbandry, nutrition, diseases, and conditions as well as challenges often faced when managing elephants in a captive or wild setting. During in-person course sections, students will have the opportunity to help with husbandry and other volunteer tasks, study elephant behavior, and observe and participate in elephant medical treatments and/or routine veterinary care. The course is repeatable with a maximum of 9 total credits provided the topics are unique.

Instructors: Erica Ward, DVM

Instructor Contact Information: Erica@loopabroad.com

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
- **Understand** how to perform physical examinations, diagnostic and therapeutic techniques on elephants and the unique challenges encountered when performing these tasks. During in person programs, students **Apply** this knowledge in practice.
- **Analyze** common diseases and conditions of elephants and their management
- **Understand** basic husbandry, treatment and management of captive elephants in free and/or protected contact settings
- **Analyze** the plight of elephants and measures being taken to improve their welfare and conservation

- **Analyze** the different management systems and training practices for elephants
- **Evaluate** elephant behavior and assess their welfare in captivity

Required Textbooks and Other Materials:

All textbooks and readings will be provided during the course.

- Loop Abroad’s course workbook
- 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.), wrist watch, snacks, refillable water bottle, insect repellent, and sunscreen.
- Students may wear closed-toed shoes each day or leave a pair at the shelter throughout the course, but should have them available each day. Clothing will get dirty or ripped.

Instructional Strategies:

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

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

Abstracts		Participation	
Attendance		Peer Evaluation	
Capstone Project		Portfolio	
Case Study		Portfolio Lab Performance	
Exams	x	Presentations	

Group Projects		Professional Evaluation	
Homework Assignments	x	Quizzes	x
Internet Research		Research project	
Journaling		Other	
Lab Performance			
Oral/written review of literature			

Grading: Your course grade will be determined as follows:

This course is composed of multiple lessons in the form of modules. At the end of each lesson there will be a multiple choice quiz. There is also a final exam and final project due at the end of the course.

Exams: 40%

Quizzes: 40%

Final Project: 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: TBD

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.

Course Modules:

1. History, Ethics, Management Systems
2. Elephant Anatomy and Physiology
3. Elephant Behavior
4. Preventative Medicine, Clinical Pathology and Diagnostics, and Therapeutic Techniques
5. Elephant Nutrition
6. Physical Exams and Findings
7. Reproduction, Neonatal Care, and Musth Management
8. Sedation, Anesthesia, Analgesia and Surgery
9. Internal and External Parasites
10. Infectious Diseases of Asian Elephants
11. Noninfectious Diseases of Asian Elephants
12. Welfare and Enrichment
13. Elephant Foot Care and Conditions
14. Positive Reinforcement Training
15. Conservation and Human Elephant Conflict Mitigation