The University of Findlay

College of Sciences

Summer 2027

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

Course Number: ASLA 455-03 Zoo Husbandry and Care: Toledo Zoo

Credit Hours: 1 credit hour

Class Time/Place: Loop Abroad Toledo Zoo Session 1

Prerequisites, Co-requisites and Course Description:
In this course, students will learn how to care for a variety of mammals, birds, and reptiles in a zoo setting including proper handling, husbandry, management, and enrichment. Students will also learn about zoo involvement in research and community education and assist in these projects as well as learn from specialists in the conservation and care of specific species. Through a combination of lecture, lab, and vet and keeper shadowing, students will get the full experience of working at modern zoos. 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** comparative anatomy and physiology, husbandry, and care of various taxa found in zoos including mammals, reptiles and birds.
- **Understand** and **Apply** appropriate protocols for the feeding, husbandry, training, and care of a variety of species of captive wildlife including mammals, reptiles, and birds
- **Analyze** the role of zoos in education, conservation, and research
- **Create** an ethogram based on behavioral observations on a zoo animal or group of zoo animals
- **Create** a goal-oriented enrichment project designed for a zoo animals' needs

Required Textbooks and Other Materials:

Students are not required to purchase these texts. All required texts, research articles and information will be provided in class.

- Loop Abroad's workbook that corresponds to the class section (if applicable).
- Materials for notes (notebook and/or laptop, writing utensils, etc.), wrist watch, snacks, refillable water bottle, insect repellant, and sunscreen.
- Students 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		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	x
Homework Assignments	x	Quizzes	

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: 20%
Assignments: 60%
Class Attendance, Participation and Lab Performance: 20%

Assignments will be completed while the student is participating in the Loop Abroad program. The exam will be proctored on the last day of the program and will be a closed book exam. Completed writing assignments should be submitted to your assigned veterinarian instructor in a word document or google document by the designated time and due date. Details on the assignments and assessments will be distributed on the first day of the program.

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:

Grade	Points	Grading Scale
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."

Appropriate and Inappropriate Use of AI:

Never upload, paste, or share Loop Abroad course materials with external AI tools. This includes lecture slides, coursepacks, instructor notes, teaching videos, assessment questions, assignment prompts, and proprietary medical data. Doing so violates the Digital Materials Agreement. Not all assessment types or rules outlined below may apply to this specific course.

Assessment-Specific Rules :

- **Reflections and Travel Journals:** AI use is prohibited. All responses must reflect your personal experiences, observations, and growth.
- **Worksheets and Guided Activities:** Do not use AI to answer questions or retrieve answers.
- **Physical Projects:** AI may assist with brainstorming, design, graphics, and proofreading. Final written content must be your own, and AI use must be disclosed in an appendix.
- **Essays and Research Reports:** AI may assist with brainstorming, outlining, and grammar editing. It may not write paragraphs, summarize literature for reviews, or provide citations. Disclose permitted AI assistance in a footnote or appendix.
- **Exams, Quizzes, and Practical Evaluations:** AI and all other external assistance are prohibited.

Permitted Study Uses: AI may be used for general conceptual learning, practice quizzes or flashcards, and study scheduling, provided you use your own prompts and do not share proprietary course materials.

If you are unsure whether a use is permitted, consult your instructor before using AI.

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, Please see Loop Abroad Schedule

Special Services: If you are a student with a disability, it is your responsibility to inform your instructor, the Loop Abroad Academic Director (erica@loopabroad.com), 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:
Based on the program location, these are possible lecture and lab topics. A class section may

have several labs or lectures that correspond to one or more of the topics below.

Possible Lectures
-Reptiles
-Birds
-Mammals
-Parasites
-Nutrition

Possible Labs
-Hospital Tour
-Case Rounds
-Examination and Restraint Practice on various taxa
-Reptile House Visit with Keeper
-Aviary Visit and Keeper Q&A
-Primate Area Visit and Keeper Q&A
-Large Carnivore Area Visit and Keeper Q&A
-Blood Cytology Lab
-Fecal Cytology Lab
-Elephant and Rhino Workshop