Human-Wildlife Conflict
VME-6XXX
Tentative Course Syllabus

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Website: www.forensicscience.ufl.edu/veterinary

Suggested text:

Supplemental Readings:


Course Description:

This course introduces issues of human and wildlife conflict both in historical context & current conservation. Explore solutions, including innovative & traditional agricultural practices, hunting & tourism as potential means of off-setting the cost of wildlife damage, & policy development at the local, regional, and national or international levels.

Additional Information:

The discipline of conservation medicine results from a long evolution of trans-disciplinary thinking, merged from the health and ecological sciences. Today one of the more pressing issues faced by conservationists is that of human-wildlife conflict (HWC). As humans encroach onto natural habitats, and conservationists restore habitat and repopulate with wildlife, there is increasing overlap at the interface between humans and wildlife. At the interface, even endangered and protected species impose serious impacts on human lives & livelihoods. Predators kill humans & livestock; elephants destroy crops and trample humans. Humans act out in protection of their lives, their resources, or in retaliation. True conservation requires a realistic coexistence at this interface.

This course introduces the student to the issues of HWC both in historical context & present-day conservation. We will explore a variety of solutions, including innovative and traditional agricultural practices, hunting & tourism as potential means of off-setting the cost of wildlife damage, & policy development at the local, regional, and national or international levels that aims to remediate this conflict. Ultimately, we must aim for prevention of HWC, however until this lofty goal is achieved, we must implement practical & culturally appropriate solutions.
Wildlife forensics plays a key role in assisting conservationists with the tools they need to investigate wildlife crime as it relates to HWC.

**Primary Course Objectives:**
By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Define human-wildlife conflict & examine its importance in historical & modern-day conservation
- Provide examples of human-wildlife conflict & solutions that have been both successful & unsuccessful in the field
- Appreciate the importance of cultural context in the problem-solving approach to HWC
- Perform a critical evaluation of the factors leading to HWC, through the use of case studies
- Practice problem-solving and apply solutions to mitigate HWC
- Apply forensics approaches to assist in investigations involving HWC

**Course Topics:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Book Chapter; Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 (May 7-11, 2018)</td>
<td>Introduction to HWC</td>
<td>1. Intro to HWC</td>
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<td>2. The impact of HWC on wildlife &amp; ecology</td>
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<td>3. The impact of HWC on human lives &amp; livelihoods</td>
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<td>5. Social science &amp; the psychology of human attitudes towards wildlife</td>
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<td>6. Patterns of compensation in HWC</td>
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<td>Strategies &amp; techniques to mitigate HWC</td>
<td>7. Participatory process to mitigate HWC</td>
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<td>4 (May 28-June 1, 2018)</td>
<td>8. Non-lethal techniques for reducing depredation</td>
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<td>5 (June 4-8, 2018)</td>
<td>Extractive use of wildlife to offset the cost of HWC</td>
<td>10. Evaluating lethal control in HWC management</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 (June 4-8, 2018)</td>
<td>Extractive use of wildlife to offset the cost of HWC</td>
<td>11. Bearing the costs of HWC</td>
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<td>5 (June 4-8, 2018)</td>
<td>Extractive use of wildlife to offset the cost of HWC</td>
<td>12. Wildlife value &amp; consumptive use</td>
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<td>6 (June 11-15, 2018)</td>
<td>Fertility control as a mitigation for HWC</td>
<td>14. Zoning as a means of mitigating conflicts with large carnivores</td>
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<td>6 (June 11-15, 2018)</td>
<td>Fertility control as a mitigation for HWC</td>
<td>15. Fencing &amp; barriers as mitigation for HWC</td>
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<td>7 (June 18-22, 2018)</td>
<td>Black-tailed prairie dog conservation &amp; conflict, a case study</td>
<td>16. Fertility control as a mitigation for HWC</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Case studies in HWC</td>
<td>17. From conflict to coexistence, a case study of geese &amp; agriculture</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Case studies in HWC</td>
<td>18. Hen harriers &amp; red grouse, the ecology of conflict</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>20. Human-elephant conflict</td>
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<td>21. Safari hunting &amp; conservation on communal lands in southern Africa</td>
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<td>22. Socio-ecological factors involved in crop-raiding conflicts</td>
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<td>23. Jaguars &amp; livestock; living with the world’s third largest wild felid</td>
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<td>24. HWC in urban areas</td>
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<td>25. Human-bear conflict in National Parks</td>
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<td>27. Conflicts between humans &amp; tigers in Russia</td>
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<td>28. Large carnivore depredation &amp; compensation schemes in Sweden &amp; Norway</td>
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<td>30. Policies for reducing HWC; a case study in Kenya</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>July 16-20, 2018</td>
<td>An ecology-based policy framework for human-tiger coexistence in India</td>
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<td>31</td>
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<td>31. An ecology-based policy framework for human-tiger coexistence in India</td>
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<td>32. The future of coexistence: resolving HWC in a changing world</td>
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<td>33. Wildlife &amp; recreation-based conflict</td>
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<td>Assessing the failure of a community-based human-wildlife conflict mitigation project in Budongo Forest Reserve, Uganda</td>
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<td>34</td>
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<td>34. Assessing the failure of a community-based human-wildlife conflict mitigation project in Budongo Forest Reserve, Uganda</td>
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<td>35. Human–wildlife conflict in northern Botswana: livestock predation by endangered African wild dog Lycaon pictus and other carnivores</td>
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**Grading:**
Students will be graded based on a combination of their participation in weekly discussion questions or short assignments (5 points each for participation each week for 12 weeks), module assessments (4 quizzes at 25 points each), and a final project (100 points). All written answers
must be completed in your own words. Copying from other sources is not acceptable and will be considered plagiarism unless sources are properly cited. Failure to complete an assignment in your own words may result in you receiving a score of 0 (zero) for the assignment. If you lose your internet connection during your exam time and scores are not recorded simply email the instructor for assistance or call the number listed above. Always include your name when communicating with the course instructor. Students will receive individual feedback on points lost on the assignments. The comments of the TA or professor can be viewed on the assignment submission page for the corresponding module found on the last page of each module. Students can check their progress in the course by viewing their grade records via the course interface.

**Final Project:** Case Study - Each student will be asked to develop a real-world scenario surrounding human-wildlife conflict. Students will be expected to describe this scenario in detail and provide a hypothesis driven resolution(s) to the problem using information learned from the lectures. This paper will consist of 10 pages that will be given at the end of Module I and due the last week of class. It will be worth 100 points.

**Points breakdown:**
Weekly discussion questions/projects (due May 13, 20, 27; June 3, 10, 17, 24, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2018): 5 points per week (12 weeks; 60 pts)
Module assessments: (due May 25, June 15, July 6 & 27, 2018): a review, case-based or real-world assessment that emphasizes the theme of the module (4 modules, 25 pts each; 100 pts)
Final project: due August 10, 2018 (100 pts)

**Total Points:** 260

Grades will be assigned as follows:
100-93.4%  A
93.3-90.0%  A-
89.9-86.7%  B+
86.6-83.4%  B
83.3-80.0%  B-
79.9-76.7%  C+
76.6-73.4%  C
73.3-70.0%  C-
69.9-66.7%  D+
66.6-63.4%  D
63.3-60.0%  D-
<59.9% and below = E

Registrar’s Grade Policy regulations at [http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html)

**Getting Started:**

**Required Equipment:** Computer with reliable, high speed internet access; your preferred web browser; video player with ability to play MP4 videos; speakers and/or headphones and working
sound; PDF reader. For more information on hardware and software necessary to run Canvas, visit https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2059. Canvas offers mobile applications for both Apple and Android products. These apps may be downloaded in the respective app stores. Depending on the device and your equipment, not all Canvas features may be available on the app at this time. For more information on Canvas apps, visit https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-1542.

This course is instructed in Canvas. To get started, briefly introduce yourself via the discussion board located in the left-hand menu on the homepage of the course. Once you have responded to the Introduction you will then go to the first module. Read through the course content and any required reading listed in the module introduction. Do not hesitate to contact your instructor at any time if you need guidance; if you are unsure about the focus of the assignment; if you have assignment questions or questions relating to the course content. If you don’t tell us you need help, we can’t help you!

Revision and Notes:
As you go through the semester, keep copies of important emails, bulletins and assignments you may use for revision as these will be purged from the course at the end of the semester. We recommend you make a copy of the course modules since this will be the only access you will get to these materials. We will not be able to provide you with copies of course content once the course is removed from your account.

Course Assignments:
This class consists of a large amount of material. Each week there will be either two discussion questions or a short project assigned emphasizing what I feel are the most important aspects of that week’s lessons. The discussion questions will require you to write a response that incorporates your knowledge of that week’s topics/subjects to demonstrate your understanding. Short projects will typically be in the form of a longer written assignment or an oral presentation to be presented online which presents a topic reflecting the applicable lessons. Please participate in the online discussions/projects.

Assignment Deadlines:
Please review the information regarding the policy for missed deadlines in the section on Instructional Policies. In some courses content modules may be released before the scheduled calendar date to help those who need to work ahead because of work commitments, court appearances, and work-related travel. If a module is released ahead of time, the deadline for the assignment and exam will remain the same as it is on the course calendar.

Communication:
Course Email, not the discussion board, should always be used contact the faculty or staff if you have a problem of a personal nature. If you are having technical problems with the course content (downloads, etc.) or you are unable to access your course interface, please contact the UF Help Desk. We don't want any of you to be offline for any length of time. Contact us as soon as you can so we can check it out and help you. If you are experiencing difficulty with your access to course email, then please email your course instructor directly via regular email or use the
phone number listed at the top of the syllabus. In that email/phone call, make sure you give your name and the name of your course. Please respond to all emails from your instructor or TA. When we email you, we are usually contacting you because we want to help you. If you have a question about your grade, an exam, or assignment question, please email us and we’ll be happy to help you.

**Bulletin Board:**
The course bulletin board can be used to post content related questions and assignment materials when necessary. Please ask me questions any time; I am here to help you. Please do not use the community forum to ask specific questions about your current course content, assignments etc. It’s VERY important that you read all the discussion bulletins that have been posted. I will use this site to post important information relating to content or exam changes, deadlines etc. Since postings can accumulate quickly, please login each day to stay on top of these postings or you may miss important information.

**Makeup Policy:**
Make-up examinations will not be given unless arrangements are made PRIOR TO the exam date. In the event of an emergency and you are unable to take the exam on the date it is administered to the class, a doctor’s note must be provided in order to be able to retake the exam.

Late writing assignments/projects will not be accepted without a doctor’s note.

Students are responsible for satisfying all academic objectives as defined by the instructor. Absences count from the first class meeting.

In general, acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to participate in class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Other reasons also may be approved.

Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence.

Students cannot participate in classes unless they are registered officially or approved to audit with evidence of having paid audit fees. The Office of the University Registrar provides official class rolls to instructors.

If a student does not participate in at least one of the first two class meetings of a course or laboratory in which they are registered, and he or she has not contacted the department to indicate his or her intent, the student can be dropped from the course. Students must not assume that they will be dropped, however. The department will notify students if they have been dropped from a course or laboratory.
The university recognizes the right of the individual professor to make attendance mandatory. After due warning, professors can prohibit further attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for excessive absences.

https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

**Grade Changes:**
Grades will be changed only when a grading error has been made. If you think an error has been made, you should email the instructor as soon as possible. Your entire assignment will then be re-graded.

**Instructional Policy:**
Penalty policy: no credit will be given for assignments or discussion question responses submitted late, unless they are accompanied by a doctor’s note (a grade of zero will be given).

This course is part of the distance education program at the University of Florida. Instead of traditional lecture format, the medium for communication between course instructors, teaching assistants and students will be via Canvas, a user friendly Web-based classroom management tool.

**Attendance Policy:** Students must participate in the bulletin board discussions, and are required to visit the course website daily for important updates and bulletins. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at:

https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

**Class Participation:** Students are expected to constructively join in bulletin board discussions with appropriate preparation, to post interesting and relevant information on the class bulletin board, and to interact professionally with their classmates.

**Performance Expectations:** Students are expected to produce quality work of a standard comparable to any graduate level didactic course. Bulletin postings and discussions must be legible, constructive and appropriate. Students are required to think for themselves and will be expected to complete assignments that require the application of logic and reasoning skills when the answer may not be found in a book or the course notes.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism includes any attempt to take credit for another person’s work. This includes quoting directly from a book or web site, without crediting the source. Sources should always be referenced, a link to the website added, or quotation marks placed around the material. However, we expect more than simply cutting and pasting in this graduate level course. Students are expected to review, evaluate and comment on material they research, rather than simply copying relevant material. Your work will be graded accordingly.

**Assignments:** While we understand that our students have other work and personal commitments, we expect every effort to be made to meet these deadlines. If for some reason,
because of circumstances beyond your control, you are unable to meet an assignment deadline, students should e-mail the professor and explain the situation in advance. Being consistently late in submitting assignments disrupts the discussion of topics on the bulletin board and will therefore result in loss of marks for that assignment up to a full letter grade. If you email us we will work with you around the deadline. If you have outstanding assignments at the end of the semester we will send you a follow up email as a reminder and as a means to determine your plans for completion. If you do not respond to us before the final day of classes you will be assigned a grade based on the completed assignments.

**Drop Dates:** consult the UF Calendar of Critical Dates at [http://www.forensicscience.ufl.edu/Students/Dates.asp](http://www.forensicscience.ufl.edu/Students/Dates.asp)

Students must inform us that they are withdrawing from a course to ensure appropriate tuition reimbursement. Deleting yourself from the course roster does not officially withdraw you from a course.

**Important Dates:**
For Assignment deadlines - see the course Calendar in Canvas.
For other important dates, consult the UF Calendar of Critical Dates and [http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/)

**Additional information on the University of Florida Grades and Grading Policies may be found at:**
[https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx)

“Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting the accommodation”

*University’s Honesty Policy (cheating and use of copyrighted materials)*

*Academic Integrity* – Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity (see Student Conduct Code, the Graduate Student Handbook or this web site for more details:

[www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.php](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.php)

Cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

*We, the members of the University of Florida community,*
*pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the*  
*highest standards of honesty and integrity.*

**Academic Honesty**
As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: “*We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.*” You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this
commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code.

Services for Students with Disabilities
The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

Online Course Evaluation Process
Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open for students to complete during the last two or three weeks of the semester; students will be notified of the specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results.

Campus Helping Resources
Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general wellbeing are encouraged to utilize the university’s counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/
Counseling Services
Groups and Workshops
Outreach and Consultation
Self-Help Library
Wellness Coaching
- U Matter We Care, www.umatter.ufl.edu/
- Career Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, www.crc.ufl.edu/

Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us. We have helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.

Student Complaints:
- Online Course: http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process