

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
College of Social and Applied Human Sciences
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

ISS*3400: International Field Study [1.0] Summer, 2025
One Health Approaches to Conservation

Instructor: Prof. Travis Steffens
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Pre-field Class Time: 9am-4pm

Class Location: TBD

Course Websites: TBD

Required Text: Primate Behavior an Exercise Workbook, Teichroeb et al., 2021

Recommended Reading:

- Chasing Lemurs, McGoogan
- The Aye-Aye and I, Durrell
- Lords and Lemurs, Jolly
- The Eighth Continent, Tyson

Course Outline

Calendar Description:

This course introduces students to **One Health** approaches to conservation through an experiential learning opportunity at the **Toronto Zoo** (predeparture training) and in **Madagascar**. Students will work using the **One Health** approach to address a conservation issue facing an endangered primate group (lemurs) within a forest environment shared by people and their domestic animals.

Detailed Course Description:

In this course students may be introduced to research project design, implementation, and analysis with a focus on actual and holistic field data collection using a One Health approach. Training in research methods include the fundamentals of measuring the relationship between humans, animals, and their shared environment through natural and social science methods to assess behaviour and ecology. Students MAY be introduced (methods will change yearly) to methods of collection and preparation of samples for DNA and parasite analysis, the use of GIS in conservation, and methods for assessing the success of conservation and development activities. Daily activities and experiences are designed to demonstrate the realities of data collection within a real-world conservation and development context that leverages a One Health approach; help students assess the pros and cons of various data collection, and applied conservation techniques in practice; and to think in terms of the quantitative and qualitative

measurement of key research/applied conservation variables. Training will also include skills needed to be a successful researcher and/or conservationist including teamwork, problem solving, logistics preparation, and communicating and working with people from different cultural backgrounds.

Evaluation:

Description	Weighting
Pre-Departure Test	10%
Field Log	20%
Daily/Weekly Exercises and Activities	20%
Final Data Analysis Assignment	10%
Daily Performance and Conduct in the Field	10%
Research Proposal	30%

Note: Final marks are tentative until approved by the Department Chair and Dean's Office and recorded in the Office of the Registrar. Marks from on CourseLink or Top Hat are not official.

Learning Outcomes:

This course is designed to enhance students' understanding through experiential learning the following:

- Ability to synthesize quantitative and qualitative research from the natural and social sciences to incorporate into a research project that leverages a One Health approach.
- Apply appropriate research methodologies to address a real-world conservation issue using a One Health approach.
- Living non-human primate characteristics, adaptations, and behaviour within an environment shared with humans.
- Critically evaluate conservation programs and their real-world impact on people, wildlife, and their shared environment.
- Ability to work within an intercultural context to develop skills necessary for working within an international context or team environment.

Course Schedule

Pre-course:

- Information and Selection Meeting
- Application Deadline
- Notification of selected students
- Program deposit
- Mandatory meeting or selected students
- Airline tickets paid
- Meeting to begin pre-session study

Field School:

- Week 1 May 5-9: Classroom/Toronto Zoo (2 days at University of Guelph and 3 Days at the Toronto Zoo)
 - Expectations
 - Background preparation
 - Training
 - Pre-Departure Exam
- Week 2: Travel to Madagascar
- Week 3: Madagascar
- Week 4: Madagascar
- Week 5-6: Madagascar/Travel to Canada
- Week 7-12: Post Session work on Research Project Proposal