

BOR 3323

Wildlife Crimes

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Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description/Overview

This course is designed to begin with an overview of the world's wildlife and conservation crime problem from a global perspective as well as the United States Fish and Wildlife Department. The wildlife crime problem is a preferred economic business practice of many organizations, including transnational organized crime groups and some terrorist organizations. The modules created for use in this course are designed to progress from the worldview of wildlife and conservation crime to a more localized perspective that encompasses the full spectrum of social, political, and economic issues affecting the United States. Finally, the violence and threat emanating from many wildlife criminal organizations will be studied, and future trends and implications will top off the course.

Course Bibliography and Required Readings:

There is no formal textbook in this course. Readings will be assigned each week and are provided to you in PowerPoint, PDF or WORD format, or will link you directly to the web site of interest. Additionally, where possible, videos are utilized to enhance student learning.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Technical skills required for this course

As with all online courses, students must be able to operate a computer and have the necessary technical skills to navigate around a web page. Additional technical skills are not a prerequisite for this course, however your computer must meet certain minimum requirements to operate Blackboard.

Time spent on this course

Students can expect to spend a minimum of 6 hours per week to complete all the readings and assignments. The lessons themselves take as long as the student will require to read the materials and watch or listen to media presentations.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

Objective One: To become familiar with definitions, terms and concepts related to wildlife crime from an international and U.S. perspective

Objective Two: To learn about the scope, extent, and impact of the wildlife and conservation problem from an international and U.S. perspective

Objective Three: To understand the consumption, use, and types of wildlife and parts thereof trafficked across the globe, focusing on major international trafficking routes

Objective Four: To comprehend the full spectrum and impact that wildlife criminal activity has on individual animal populations, target countries, and regions, in addition to participation in operations of transnational organized crime groups and the effect they have.

Objective Five: To illustrate the relationships between international crime organizations and wildlife crimes.

Learning Outcomes

By semester's end, each student will have accomplished the following learning outcomes for this course:

1. Understand the wildlife trade and the characteristics and effects of smuggling on animal populations
2. Become thoroughly familiar with the scope, impact, and extent to which wildlife trafficking is influencing local, state, and international organizations and countries
3. Comprehend the extent to which the wildlife criminal organizations have pervaded the social, political, economic, and environmental landscape of local communities, larger regions, and even entire countries
4. Illustrate the effect of wildlife criminal organizations, transnational organized crime groups, and others on a nation's economic and ecosystem security through an understanding of related crimes that are in conjunction with wildlife criminal activity

Student learning outcomes will be assessed through a combination of written assignments, on--line discussions, and active participation in this course.

Through the writing assignments, the student is expected to show an understanding of the depth and breadth of the wildlife crime problem across the U.S. and throughout the globe, particularly stating how the planning and response efforts affect entire ecosystems.

A major competency identified by Wildlife Conservation professionals is the ability to produce technical reports and briefings, to communicate coherently a wide variety of thoughts to a diverse audience that may not be as knowledgeable of a subject as the person conducting the briefing or writing the report. To address this concern, throughout the Border Security and Criminal Justice programs students are assigned writing projects of various lengths and complexities. Since the phenomenon of wildlife criminal activity crosses disciplines, students of other social sciences, such as sociology, psychology, and social work are active participants. Effective writing and critical thinking skills are necessary for a graduating student to succeed in the workplace and future employment.

Several writing exercises and projects are assigned throughout the semester to measure the student’s ability to critically analyze the cases and after action reports. Specific knowledge on topics of importance to future courses in the Border Security program as well as the Criminal Justice program is measured through the use of comprehensive exams. To measure the student’s comprehensive understanding of the materials presented in this course, each writing assignment is meant to be comprehensive, inclusive of previous readings and class discussions.

Grading Policies

This course employs writing assignments and research projects to measure student learning.

Assignment Percent of Grade Due

Introduction, Lesson 1	Participation	Week 1
Discussions, Lessons 3,5	20%	Week 3, 5
Assignment 1, Lesson 2	20%	Week 2
Research Project 1, Lesson 4	20%	Week 4
Power Point Assignment, Lesson 6	20%	Week 6
Final Project, Lessons 7,8	20%	Week 8

Angelo State University employs a letter grade system. Grades in this course are determined on a percentage scale:

A = 90 – 100 %

B = 80 – 89 %

C = 70 – 79 %

F = 59 % and below.

Discussions

There are three discussions in this course. The first is to introduce oneself and the other two in Weeks 3 and 5

The main focus of this course will be research as this enhances the student's mind and broadens their horizons through examining new materials.

Writing Guidelines

Each writing assignment deals with the topic under discussion. These writing assignments cumulatively account for 60% of the student's grade. Writing assignments are expected to be about 1000 words.

[Formal academic writing uses standardized styles and citation formats. The preferred format is the APA style. To access the APA writing guidelines go to this link: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/.](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/)

Should you wish to use CHICAGO style that will be acceptable. The Chicago Style guide can be found at <http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org>. Papers should have 1-inch margins all around. You are expected to use a standardized Times New Roman, 12 point. Cite your references in EVERY instance and include a properly formatted reference list and cover page with every assignment. Every writing assignment should be submitted as a Word or PDF document. Do NOT submit writing assignments in Word Perfect, Microsoft Works, or some email format. They will not be accepted.

Research Projects

Two research projects will be assigned during the course at a value of 20% each. These will be in Lessons 4 and 8. Each will consist of Internet research into various wildlife criminal activities. Each student will upload their individual findings and outcomes of their research. The course will necessitate individual and class discussions throughout its entirety so all students and the instructor can learn equally from our research. The richness this type of learning brings is invaluable and the outcome will be that of great quality for all who participate. The written product and oral discussion will weigh equally on the students grade.

Rubrics

Discussion forums and writing assignments will be graded using a standardized rubric. It is recommended that you be familiar with these grading criteria and keep them in mind as you complete the writing assignments. There are two rubrics. Click the link to download the PDF document:

[Discussion Rubric](#)
[Writing Assignment Rubric](#)

Final Exam

This course does not utilize a final exam as part of evaluating student learning. In lieu of a final exam, students are expected to complete their final assignment and an evaluation of the course by Thursday of the last week of class.

Course Organization:

Lesson 1: Wildlife Crimes: An Introduction

Lesson 2: International Wildlife Trade

Written Assignment 1 Due

Lesson 3: Global Action, Local Costs: CITES

Lesson 4: Hunting vs Poaching?

Research Project 1 Due

Lesson 5: Biodiversity: The Enchanted Planet

Lesson 6: Garden of Eden or Garden of Evil? Krueger National Park, South Africa

Power Point Project Due

Lesson 7: North American Model of Wildlife Conservation: Relic or Relevant?

Start Final Project

Lesson 8: **Final Project Due**

Communication

Participation

In this class *everyone*, brings something to the table. Your ideas and thoughts do count, not only to me, but the entire class. Feel free to ask questions either via e-mail or the discussion board. Many student questions are applicable to the class as a whole, as are the responses. You may be surprised how many of your classmates have the same questions and concerns as you. I may simply post your particular question on the discussion board and allow your classmates to provide the answer through their own posts.

To some, this may be their first online class at ASU and naturally, it could seem somewhat intimidating. As a class, we are together to help each other with this learning process and share

our collective knowledge on how best to communicate; how to resolve technical issues that may arise (if we have the expertise), and to assist each other to find answers to our questions.

We will learn and work as a team.

Courtesy and Respect

Courtesy and Respect are essential ingredients to this course. We respect each other's opinions and respect their point of view at all times while in our class sessions. The use of profanity & harassment of any form is strictly prohibited (Zero Tolerance), as are those remarks concerning one's ethnicity, life style, race (ethnicity), religion, etc., violations of these rules will result in immediate dismissal from the course.

Attendance

This is an online course and attendance is not taken. However, failure to participate in the discussion board, to communicate or respond to emails from the professor, is an indication something is wrong. Failure to participate or communicate on the part of the student will result in an appropriate reduction in your grade and possibly in failure of the course.

Late Work

Late work will be accepted, however each day the paper is late, 10% of the grade will be deducted from the point total.

Incompletes

The University policy on grades of "Incomplete" is that the deficiency in performance must be addressed satisfactorily by the end of the next long (16 week) semester or the grade automatically becomes an "F". Grades of "Incomplete" will only be awarded to students who have demonstrated sufficient progress to earn the opportunity to complete the course outside of the normal course duration. The award of an "Incomplete" will only be made in rare circumstances, with the concurrence of the student and the professor on what specific tasks remain and when they are due for the grade to be changed to a higher grade. The determination of the need to award an "Incomplete" is entirely up to the professor's personal judgment.

Office Hours/Contacting the Instructor

See the Instructor Information section for contact information.

University Policies

Academic Integrity

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their

academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the university [Academic Honor Code](#) and the [ASU Student Handbook](#).

Accommodations for Disability

ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation.

Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by emailing studentservices@angelo.edu, or by contacting:

Office of Student Affairs
University Center, Suite 112
325-942-2047 Office
325-942-2211 FAX

Student absence for religious holidays

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

Title IX

The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance.

Students are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU's Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator at:

Michelle Boone, J.D.

Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
325-942-2022
michelle.boone@angelo.edu

You may also file a report online 24/7 at www.angelo.edu/incident-form.

If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the *University Health Clinic and Counseling Center at 325-942-2173* or the *ASU Crisis Helpline at 325-486-6345*.

For more information about Title IX in general you may visit www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

Required Use of Masks/Facial Coverings by Students in Class

As a member of the Texas Tech University System, Angelo State University has adopted the mandatory [*Facial Covering Policy*](#) to ensure a safe and healthy classroom experience. Current research on the COVID-19 virus suggests there is a significant reduction in the potential for transmission of the virus from person to person by wearing a mask/facial covering that covers the nose and mouth areas. Therefore, in compliance with the university policy students in this class are required to wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after class. Faculty members may also ask you to display your daily screening badge as a prerequisite to enter the classroom. You are also asked to maintain safe distancing practices to the best of your ability. For the safety of everyone, any student not appropriately wearing a mask/facial covering will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. The student will be responsible to make up any missed class content or work. Continued non-compliance with the Texas Tech University System Policy may result in disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct