



Wildlife Conservation and Political Ecology Seminar

ENVI-3000 (4 Credits / 60 hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Tanzania: Wildlife Conservation & Political Ecology

Course Description

The Wildlife Conservation and Political Ecology (WCPE) Seminar seeks to understand the diverse relationships that exist between humans, natural resources (both biotic and abiotic) and the resource management and sustainable use of the biological and cultural diversities. To develop the learning of skill sets that transcend disciplines and the course, the overall components of the WCPE Seminar integrate the natural and social sciences. A fundamental aspect of the seminar and the program is that students are required to take responsibility and self-assessment of their learning.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand the interrelationships of the ecosystems of Tanzania and the impact of human presence and utilization;
- Interrogate specific political ecology, conservation and preservation issues in Tanzania and East Africa;
- Assess effective management of resources and protected areas for humans and wildlife;
- Articulate the ways that resource use is organized and transmitted through particular social relations and how they impact on the resources in an environment;
- Recognize the plurality of positions, perceptions, interests, and rationalities in relation to the environment and investigate the complex and deep ways in which the dynamics of asymmetrical social and political power affect ecological systems.

*This syllabus is representative of a typical semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

Required Readings

Prior to departure from USA:

- Igoe, J. (2004). *Conservation and Globalization. A study of national parks and Indigenous Communities from East Africa to South Dakota*. Wadsworth. ISBN 0-534-61317-9 (Read Chapters 1, 2 and 3)
- Sinclair, A. 2012. *Serengeti Story: A scientist in paradise*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780199645527
- Norberg-Hodge, H. (2016) *Localization: Essential Steps to an Economics of Happiness, publication of Local Futures*

During the semester, students are provided with readings which are updated as new material is sourced. The following list of topics and associated readings provides an example of topics covered and readings assigned.

SEMINAR TOPICS (& facilitator)		READINGS
Module 1: Setting the context: African history, ecology, and tourism		
Introduction to TZE <i>Felicity Kitchin, Orientation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norberg-Hodge, H. (2016). Localization: essential steps to an economics of happiness, Local Futures (https://www.localfutures.org/wp-content/uploads/Localization-Booklet-download.pdf) – assigned pre-departure • Cooper, F. (2000). Africa's Pasts and Africa's Historians, <i>Canadian Journal of African Studies / Revue Canadienne des Études Africaines</i>, Vol. 34, No. 2 (2000), pp. 298-336 • Walley, C. (2004). Conservation and Development in the age of the “global”, <i>Nature and development in an East African marine park</i>, Princeton University Press, Chapter 1 	
Are we tourists or not? Reflections on tourism and its impact <i>Felicity Kitchin, Orientation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Williams, T. R. (2012) Tourism as a Neo-colonial Phenomenon: Examining the Works of Pattullo & Mullings, <i>Caribbean Quilt</i>, Vol. 2 (2011) 191-200 • Gibson, C. (2010) Geographies of tourism: (un)ethical Encounters, <i>Progress in Human Geography</i> 34(4) (2010) pp. 521–527 • Sumich, J, (2002) Looking for the other: Tourism, power and identity in Zanzibar, <i>Anthropology Southern Africa</i> (2002), 25 (1 & 2) pp. 39-45 	
What is Political Ecology? <i>Dr Moyo, Orientation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mung’ong’o, C.G. (2009) Political ecology: a synthesis and search for relevance to today’s ecosystems conservation and development, <i>African Journal of Ecology</i>, 47 (Suppl. 1), 192–197 • Robbins, P. (2012). Political versus apolitical ecologies, (Chapter 1) in <i>Political ecology, second edition</i>, Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell 	
Module 2: Introduction to wildlife management in TZ		
Is Tanzania’s wildlife under threat? Introduction to wildlife management in TZ <i>Oscar Pascal, Orientation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (2008). <i>Wildlife for all Tanzanians: Stopping the loss, nurturing the resource and widening the benefits</i>. Brief 1: The end of the game? The decline and depletion of Tanzania’s wildlife, and Brief 2: The causes of wildlife decline in Tanzania • Mariki, S.B. and H. Svarstad (2015). Elephants over the cliff: explaining wildlife killings in TZ, <i>Land Use Policy</i> 44 (2015) 19–30 • Kisingo, A., H. Njovu and G. Alfred, (2013) Tropical Savannas, in R. W. Howarth (ed) (2013), <i>Biomes and Ecosystems</i>, Salem Press: Amena, NY • Kisingo, A. (2013) Serengeti Volcanic Grasslands in in R. W. Howarth (ed) (2013), <i>Biomes and Ecosystems</i>, Salem Press: Amena, NY 	
Module 3: Local vs global perspectives of globalization, development, aid, and conservation		
How does Globalization, Development and Aid affect local people?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Citizen</i> newspaper, Foreign revenue dependency fall, November 16, 2017 • <i>Citizen</i> newspaper, Why the donor musical chairs game is back on, April 19, 2017 • <i>Citizen</i> newspaper, Controversy about donor aid and development, April 2, 2017 • <i>Citizen</i> newspaper, Why Chinese investment in Africa is not a debt trap, September 5, 2018 	

	<p><i>Homestay village focus group, discussion</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>East African</i> newspaper, New \$60b US fund to rival Chinese push into Africa, 7 November, 2018 • Gwata, M (2018) A template for understanding the African debt crisis, <i>Daily Maverick</i> • Moyo, Dambisa (2009). <i>Aid is not working Dead Aid: Why aid is not working and how there is a better way for Africa</i>. New York: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter 3 – Aid is not working - Chapter 4 - The silent killer of growth • Ferguson, James (2007). <i>Global Shadows: Africa in the Neo-liberal world order</i>. Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter 1 – Globalizing Africa - Chapter 7 – Decomposing modernity
	<p>How does Environmental conservation and climate change affect local people? <i>Homestay village focus group, discussion</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buscher, B. et al (2016). Half-earth or whole earth? Radical ideas for conservation and their implications, <i>Oryx, Fauna and Flora International</i>, page 1 of 4 • Caro, t. et al (2009). Assessing the effectiveness of protected areas: paradoxes call for pluralism in evaluating conservation performance, <i>Diversity and Distributions</i> (2009) 15, 178-182 • Shemsanga, C. et al (2010) The Cost of Climate Change in Tanzania: Impacts and Adaptations, <i>Journal of American Science</i>, 2010, 6(3), 182-196 • Sainsbury, K. et al (2015). Exploring stakeholder perceptions of conservation outcomes from alternative income generating activities in Tanzanian villages adjacent to Eastern Arc Mountain forests
<p>Module 4: The complexities of conservation and wildlife management: Balancing the needs of people vs animals</p>		
	<p>Are people and conservation mutually exclusive? <i>PEC presentation by students, discussion, and expert input – Tarangire</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Igoe, Jim (2004) <i>Conservation and Globalization: A study of national parks and indigenous communities from East Africa to South Dakota</i>, Chapters 1, 2 and 3 • Bluwstein, J. (2018) From colonial fortresses to neoliberal landscapes in Northern Tanzania: a biopolitical ecology of wildlife conservation, <i>Journal of Political Ecology</i>, Vol 25, 2018, 144-168 • Woodhouse, E and J. T. McCabe (2018) Well-being and conservation: diversity and change in visions of a good life among the Maasai of northern Tanzania, <i>Ecology and Society</i> 23(1)43 • The Guardian, 28 February 2018 Government to compensate villagers for paving way for conservation
	<p>Are Wildlife Management Areas a solution? <i>PEC presentation by students, discussion and expert input by Dr Moyo</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilfred, P. (2010). Towards sustainable wildlife management areas in TZ, <i>Tropical Conservation Science</i>, Vol 3(1), 103-116 (WMA) • Moyo, F. et al (2016). Failure by design: revisiting TZ’s flagship wildlife management area, <i>Conservation and Society</i>, 14(3), 232-242, 2016 • Moyo, F. et al (2017) Between policy intent and practice: negotiating access to land and other resources in Tanzania’s Wildlife Management Areas, <i>Tropical Conservation Science</i>, Vol. 10, 1-17 • Benjaminsen, A. et al (2013). Wildlife management in TZ: state control, rent seeking and community resistance, <i>Development and Change</i>, 44(5): 1087–1109 • Bluwstein, J. et al (2016). Austere conservation: understanding conflicts over resource governance in TZ wildlife management areas, <i>Conservation and Society</i>, 14(3) 218-231 • Lee, D. E. and M. L. Bond (2018). Quantifying the ecological success of a community-based wildlife conservation area in Tanzania, <i>Journal of Mammology</i>, 99(2): 459-464
	<p>Is there a solution? Management of the Ngorongoro Crater Authority Area and community participation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Galvin, K. et al (2015). Transitions in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area: The story of land use, human well-being, and conservation, in Sinclair, A. et al (eds.) (2015), <i>Serengeti IV: Sustaining Biodiversity in a coupled human-natural system</i>, Chicago: University of Chicago Press. • Goldman, M J (2011). Strangers in Their Own Land: Maasai and Wildlife Conservation in Northern Tanzania, <i>Conservation and Society</i> 9(1): 65-79, 2011 • Goldman, M. J. and S. Milliard (2014). From critique to engagement: re-evaluating the participatory model with Maasai in Northern Tanzania, <i>Journal of Political Ecology</i>, Vol. 21, 2014 (408-423)

	<i>PEC presentation by students, discussion and expert input – Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area</i>	<i>Recommended reading for visit to Oldupai gorge: Peters, C.R. et al (2008) Paleocology of the Serengeti-Mara Ecosystem, in Sinclair, A.R.E et al (2008) (eds.) Serengeti III: Human Impacts on Ecosystem Dynamics, Chicago: University of Chicago Press</i>
	How did the Serengeti develop? Background and key issues in the Serengeti <i>PEC presentation by students, discussion and expert input – Serengeti national park</i>	Sinclair, A. et al (eds.) (2015), <i>Serengeti IV: Sustaining Biodiversity in a coupled human-natural system</i> , Chicago: University of Chicago Press <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sinclair, A.R.E. et al (2015) Shaping the Serengeti Ecosystem (Chapter 2) • Metzger, K.L et al (2015). Scales of change in the Greater Serengeti Ecosystem (Chapter 3) <i>Recommended:</i> Sinclair, A.R.E et al (2008) (eds.) <i>Serengeti III: Human Impacts on Ecosystem Dynamics</i> Chicago: University of Chicago Press <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sinclair, A.R.E. et al (2008). Historical and Future Changes to the Serengeti Ecosystem (Chapter 2) • Anderson, T.M. et al (2008) Generation and maintenance of heterogeneity in the Serengeti ecosystem (Chapt 5) • Ritchie, M.E. (2008) Global Environmental changes and their impact on the Serengeti (Chapter 6)
	How do people and wildlife interact? Key issues around human-wildlife interaction <i>PEC presentation by students, discussion and expert input – Serengeti national park</i>	Eustace, A., A. W. Kisingo and J. Mbwiliza (2018) Wildlife damage in villages surrounding the Serengeti ecosystem, Parks Vol. 24, 1 May, 2018 Sinclair, A. et al (eds.) (2015), <i>Serengeti IV: Sustaining Biodiversity in a coupled human-natural system</i> , Chicago: University of Chicago Press <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knapp, E.J. et al (2015). The plight of the people: understanding the socio-ecological context of people living on the western edge of Serengeti National Park (Chapter 16) • Hampson, K. et al (2015). Living in the Greater Serengeti Ecosystem: Human-wildlife conflict and coexistence (Ch 21) Sinclair, A.R.E et al (2008) (eds.) <i>Serengeti III: Human Impacts on Ecosystem Dynamics</i> Chicago: University of Chicago Press <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olf, H. and J.G.C. Hopcraft (2008). The resource basis of human-wildlife interaction (Chapter 4) <i>Recommended:</i> Benjaminsen, T.A. et al (2009). The Kilosa killings: political ecology of a farmer-herder conflict in TZ, <i>Development and Change</i> , 40(3): 423–445 (2009)
	What is Serengeti's future in terms of management complexity and sustainability? <i>PEC presentation by students, discussion & expert input – Serengeti</i>	Sinclair, A.R.E et al (2008) (eds) <i>Serengeti III: Human Impacts on Ecosystem Dynamics</i> Chicago: University of Chicago Press <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thurgood, S. et al (2008). Who pays for conservation? Current and future financing scenarios for the Serengeti Ecosystem (Chapter 15) Sinclair, A. et al (eds.) (2015), <i>Serengeti IV: Sustaining Biodiversity in a coupled human-natural system</i> , Chicago: University of Chicago Press <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Randall, D. et al (2015). Multiple functions and institutions: Management complexity in the Serengeti ecosystem (Chapter 24) • Reid, R.S. et al (2015). Sustainability of the Serengeti-Mara Ecosystem for wildlife and people (Chapter 25)
Module 5: Tropical forest ecology		
	Tropical forest ecology, Eastern arc mountains, Usambara <i>PEC presentation by students, discussion</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conte, CA (2004). <i>Highland sanctuary: Environmental History in Tanzania's Usambara mountains</i>, Ohio University Press Pages 1 – 40 (Chapters 1, Forming the Highland Sanctuary and Chapter 2, Humanity's Imprint) • Galford, G (2013) East African Montane forests, in R. W. Howarth (ed) (2013), <i>Biomes and Ecosystems</i>, Salem Press: Amena, NY

	<p><i>and expert input – Mazumbai, Usambara mountains</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halperin, J. and T. Shear (2005). An assessment of rainforest distribution and threats in the West Usambara mountains, Tanzania, Geocarto International, Vol. 20, No. 1, March 2005 51-60 <p>The following reading is a seminal reading, and is required reading only for presenters of the seminar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terborgh, James (1992). <i>Diversity and the tropical rain forest</i>, New York: Scientific American Library • Chapter 3 – The Global Diversity Gradient • Chapter 4 – A mosaic of trees • Chapter 5 – Sunlight and stratification <p><i>Recommended:</i> Kingdon, Jonathan (1990). <i>Island Africa: the evolution of Africa’s rare animals and plants</i>, London: Collins, Pages 10 -30 (Introduction)</p>
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In addition, students have presentations and discussions with faculty of the College of Wildlife Management in Mweka on mountain ecology, climate change, hunting, wildlife tourism, community-based natural resource management (CBNRM), governance and fire ecology.

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

The final grade is based on the following breakdown of assignments:

- Political ecology concepts - presentation 15%
- Political ecology concepts – written assignment 30%
- Mid-term Portfolio 40%
- Participation 15%

The grading scale is as follows:

94-100%	A
90-93%	A-
87-89%	B+
84-86%	B
80-83%	B-
77-79%	C+
74-76%	C
70-73%	C-
67-69%	D+
64-66%	D
< 64%	F

Components of the WCPE Seminar

Political Ecology Concept presentations by students

This activity allows students to explore a concept in the field of political ecology. Small groups of students are responsible for producing a presentation to highlight the key issues in the readings, using additional sources if possible, and relating these to their experiences during the semester. They need to facilitate and manage discussion which will include input from the accompanying experts. The written assignment includes producing short summaries of the key issues from the

readings, giving their opinions on the topic, and developing several key questions for further discussion during the presentation.

Mid-term portfolio

The mid-term portfolio encourages students to reflect on a range of issues addressed in various forums during the semester, particularly as they play out in their homestay, and to integrate what has been learned and experienced during the semester. In addition, they use different methods of collecting data, interpreting this, and consolidating it into a coherent and integrated report.

The portfolio is based on the following:

- Two - three weeks of primary data collection with the homestay family. Primary data will be collected using qualitative techniques such as participant observation, interviews, focal groups etc. If possible, students may interview their family about issues such as their family history, where they are from originally, how they came to be in Arusha, what their hopes for the future are for themselves and their children. This could throw light on the various issues raised in the portfolio.
- The orientation readings, and readings on globalization, development, aid, conservation, and climate change need to be incorporated as reference material in the portfolio, along with reflections and information from the focal group discussions held during the homestay period, and other personal communications and observations.

The portfolio is an integrated document which includes a section on globalization and natural resource issues with a particular focus on how this impacts the homestay family's livelihood, a section on gender, and a meta-analysis, reflecting on student's relative positions of power and privilege.

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and the academic appeals process. Also, refer to the specific information available in the Student Handbook and the Program Dossier given to you at orientation.

Disability Services: Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services at disabilityservices@sit.edu for information and support in facilitating an accessible educational experience. Additional information regarding SIT Disability Services, including a link to the online request form, can be found on the Disability Services website at <http://studyabroad.sit.edu/disabilityservices>.