Global Learning Semesters
Course Syllabus
Course: ASCI 110: Exotic Animals and Wildlife of Belize
Term: Summer 2008
Host Institution: Galen University, San Ignacio, Belize
Department: Animal Science

Course Summary		
Course Code	**Course Title**	**Recommended Credit Hours**
ASCI 110	Exotic Animals and Wildlife of Belize	3
Subject	**Contact Hours**	**Prerequisites**
Animal Science	42-45	None
Department	**Level of Course**	**Language of Instruction**
Animal Science	Lower Division	English

Course Description

This course is designed for the veterinary, pre-veterinary, animal science and zoology students to gain working knowledge of wildlife biology and health issues confronting zoo animals as well as animals in rescue and rehab or breeding programs. The course is introductory but intense with flexibility built into the schedule to accommodate the interests of individual the students taking the course.

This course offers exciting extern-ship opportunities in Belize, a country known for its' animal diversity and ecological progressiveness. Students will have the opportunity to work alongside zookeepers in the internationally famous Belize Zoo, visit several wildlife projects and wildlife programs in Belize.

Classroom sessions on wildlife biology, physiology and pathology lay the foundation of knowledge needed to confront habitat and disease issues. Existing wildlife programs in Belize like the Jaguar Program and the Harpy Eagle Program will be addressed.

The majority of the student's time will be spent at extern-ships which involve the Belize Zoo, BAHA laboratories (to analyze fecal samples taken from animals at the zoo) as well as at field trips to learn about Jaguar Research and the work of Wildlife Conservation Society in Belize, the Community Baboon Sanctuary, Iguana breeding, Butterfly farming and more. Students will study a broad spectrum of animals including the Jaguar (Panthera onca), Howler monkey (Alouatta pigra) and Iguana (Iguana iguana). They will get involved in data collection and also be introduced to undergoing research projects. The externship at the Zoo will include data collection for analysis, behavioral observation as well as the creation of an animal profile.

The off campus experiences will provide the students with general knowledge of exotic animals and disease issues of exotic animals as well as an introduction to wildlife programs. Additionally, preventive wildlife and zoo animal medicine will be observed.

Course Objectives

At the end of the course students will be able to:

- Discuss the general issues related to exotic animals and wildlife in Belize
- Understand the purpose and role of zoos in animal conservation
- Explain the major issues faced by animals in captivity and zookeepers
- Discuss common diseases and basic anatomy and physiology of monkeys, iguanas, snakes and birds of Belize

- Understand the regulatory, policy and practical applications associated with wildlife conservation.

Prerequisites (if applicable)

None

Instructor Information

Dr. Isabelle Paquet-Durand, DVM, Ph.D. is a veterinarian and researcher with a Doctorate in Parasitology and Molecular Biology from the Institute of Parasitology at the Veterinary School in Hanover, Germany. She has focused her work and research in the areas of tropical and wildlife medicine, biology and management. Her work has taken her from Germany and France to Bolivia, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Belize. While in Belize, she has worked on research projects on jaguars and other large cats and helped to set up spay/neuter clinics for stray and street animals.

Evaluation and Grading

The evaluation for the course was based on the following:

Participation in discussions, field work	35%
Presentation	20%
Journal assignment	10%
Final Examination	35%

Participation
Students are expected to attend all classes and all field trips, labs or other course related events. Any assigned readings should be done in advance of the class to which they apply. Students are expected to actively participate in discussions, making reference to assigned readings and materials. In the field students will be assessed on the attentiveness, ability to demonstrate skills and attention to safety and security of themselves and the animals.

Presentation
Each student will do a short (15-20 minutes, including time for questions) presentation (preferably using powerpoint) on a topic related to the course. Depending on numbers of students, teams may be used instead of individual reports. The topic should be focused enough to allow for detailed coverage in a short presentation. Where appropriate, discuss how the topic relates to Belize.

Journal Assignment
Students are expected to keep a journal in which they reflect on what they are learning in lectures, readings and field work. At the beginning of the course students are expected to outline their goals for this summer course. Why did you choose the course? Why did you come to Belize? What do you hope to learn during these two weeks? Also comment on cultural and ethic differences that you experience (in relation to anything, but especially in relation to animals (how they are viewed and treated, what vets do in Belize, etc.) Relate you thoughts to your career goals. The journal should end with a self-assessment of your participation and work in the course with explicit references to the readings, lectures, field experiences and online resources provided in the syllabus.

Final Exam
The final exam will cover all the material in the course. It will be multiple choice, short answer and/or essay questions.

SUMMARY
The course consists of 75 hours in total over a two week period. Generally, the course meets Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm, with an hour break for lunch. Those times are adjusted to ensure maximum field experiences at farms. See the daily schedule for details. The course time is divided as follows:

- Lecture/discussion= 15 hrs
- Laboratory time= 8 hrs
- Field work = 52 hrs
- Total= 75 hrs

Readings and Resources

The Traveller's Wildlife Guides to Belize and North Guatemala will serve as the main course textbook. Students are encouraged to purchase it in advance and begin reading to become acquainted with Belize and its animals. All course readings will be available on the course website on Galen University's virtual campus. All books will also be on reserve in the library.

Recommended texts:

Foreyt, William J.: Veterinary Parasitology Reference Manual, 5th Ed. 2001, Blackwell Publishing; ISBN: 0-8138-2419-2 (**VPR)**

Beletsky, Les. Travellers' Wildlife Guides Belize and Northern Guatemala, 2005; Interlink Publishing Group, Inc. ISBN 1-56656-568-5 **(TWG)**

Garel, Tony & Sharon Matola. A Field Guide to Snakes of Belize, 1995; Costa Rica; ISBN 9968-730 **(FGS)**

Other Academic Policies

1. Attendance and Punctuality: Students are expected to attend *all* classes and be on time. Excused or unexcused absence for more than 15% of the total classes will result in F for the course.

2. All assignments are expected on their due dates. Five points will be deducted per day (not per class) for late assignments.

3. Exam policy: Make up exams/quizzes will not be given. You may be allowed to take an exam/quiz early if you know in advance that you will be out of town. In the event that you miss a scheduled exam without notification and approval, a grade of zero will be entered.

4. There are no plans to curve grades in this course. Galen's standard scale for grading will be used: A = 93-100; A- = 90-92; B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B-, 80-82; range is C+ = 77-79; C = 73-76; C- = 70-72; D+ = 67-69; D = 63-66; D- = 60-62; F = 0-69.

5. Gender neutral language in class and assignments: Galen University values the diversity of its student body, staff and faculty. As such, the university is committed to gender-neutral and bias-free language. We are all expected to support this policy in written materials and spoken contributions to class sessions.

Intellectual Integrity: Intellectual Integrity is one of the ideals for which Galen University stands. Students are expected to adhere to high standards of intellectual integrity and honesty. Cheating and plagiarism are contrary to the ideals of Galen University. Cheating is defined as dishonesty of any kind in connection with assignments and examinations. It applies to both giving and receiving unauthorized help. Plagiarism is defined as presenting the work of someone else as one's own. Cheating and plagiarism include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Using any unauthorized aids on an exam or test
- Representing someone else's work as your own
- Falsifying documents or grades
- Submitting someone else's work as your own
- Submitting the same essay or report in more than one course (without permission)
- Looking at someone else's answers during an examination or test
- Impersonating another person at an examination or test or having someone impersonate you
- Making up sources or facts for an essay or report

Cheating and plagiarism will be treated as a disciplinary offence in addition to failure in that particular assignment or examination. (Taken from Galen University's Academic Policies)

Course Schedule

Time	Activity	Note	Reading
June 16			
9am-10am	Introduction to course		TWG, chap. 2, 3, 4
10am-noon	Introduction to Belize and Conservation		
1 – 2:30 pm	Wildlife in Belize: Regulations & Issues	Forestry Dept.	TBA
2:30 – 4pm	Wildlife in Belize: Conservation	Birds w/o Borders	
July 17			
9am to 10am	Wildlife Conservation	Lecture	TWG, Chp 6, 8
10-30-noon	Wildlife Conservation cont'd	Natural Hx Museum	
2:00 – 4:00	Wildlife Conservation: Iguanas	Green Iguana Project	
June 18			
9am to 5pm	Wildlife Conservation: Monkeys	Community Baboon Sanct	TBA
June 19			
9am - 1pm	Wildlife Rescue		Chemical Capture Trng Man
	Lecture: Physical examination		
	Lecture: Chemical capture and restraint		
2 pm - 5 pm	LAB: Suturing practice		
June 20			
9 am - 10am	Parasitology and Public Health Issues		VPRM, Sec. 1, 2, 12, 16
10 am - 1 pm	Collection of Samples		
2 pm - 5 pm	LAB: Analysis of Parasites in Samples		
June 21	FREE DAY*		
June 22	FREE DAY*		
June 23			
9am – 4 pm	Introduction to Zoos		TBA
4pm – 5 pm	LAB: Bones		
June 24			
9am – 4pm	Belize Zoo experience	Overnight at TEC	www.belizezoo.org
8pm – 9:30 pm	Night tour at Zoo		
June 25			
9am – noon	Belize Zoo experience cont'd		
1pm – 4 pm	Birds: Sibun River canoe trip		TWG, chp 7; VPRM, Sec. 9
June 26			
9am-12:30pm	Reptiles and Amphibians		FGS, pp 9-140; VPRM, Sec 14, TWG, Chp 6
	Lecture: Common diseases of Iguanas		
2pm – 4 pm	Herpetology	lecture & visit to H. center	FGS, pp 9 – 140; VPRM, 207
June 27			
9 am - noon	Presentations		
1 pm - 2:30	Final Exam		
2:30-3:30	Course evaluation		