

Fall 9-1-2001

FOR 472.80: The Hunter and the Hunted - Human/Wildlife Conflicts in America

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Burchfield, James A., "FOR 472.80: The Hunter and the Hunted - Human/Wildlife Conflicts in America" (2001). *Syllabi*. 6296.
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COURSE SYLLABUS

THE HUNTER AND THE HUNTED: HUMAN/WILDLIFE CONFLICTS IN AMERICA

Fall 2001

FOR 472/HONORS Section 80 3 Credits

Instructor: Jim Burchfield

Tuesdays and Thursdays , 2:10 – 3:30 p.m.
Room 120 Davidson Honors College

Office Hours: Burchfield: Wednesday and Thursday, 1-3 p.m.; Room 465 Science Complex
Phone: 243-6650; email: jburch@forestry.umd.edu

Course Objectives

- Understand the historical and cultural context surrounding human relations to wildlife
- Explore the evolution of hunting and its contribution to human subsistence and continuing to hunting as a sports/recreational activity
- Engage in critical review of the effects of hunting on natural resources management
- Examine the economic, social, and public policy implications of hunting
- Examine the economic, social, and public policy implications of sustaining wildlife populations in the face of growing human demands on wildlife habitats

Course Overview and Structure

This is an interdisciplinary class, designed to join the natural and social sciences with the humanities. With a focus on the tension between human demands and wildlife behaviors, the class will explore the tradeoffs between sustaining wildlife populations and accommodating other social and economic objectives.

The course will first explore the anthropological roots of human/wildlife interactions, and the movement of human societies from hunter/gatherers to agriculturists. It will trace changes in human perceptions and attitudes toward nature, reaching to the growth of the animal protection movement. There will be a primary focus on hunting as a human activity, and a secondary focus on predators and the challenges associated with species that can inflict harm on humans and/or their property.

A major section of the course will explore the ethics of hunting, and the effect of the animal rights movement on hunting policies. The course will explore hunting practices as vehicles for wildlife management, and the interaction between landscape management objectives and the presence of game species. The politics of sports hunting and its affect on other related issues, such as gun control, will be briefly discussed, and policy options for the future of game management will close the course material.

A fundamental assumption within the class is that humans can benefit by learning to co-exist with other living species. Discussions and critique of this assumption will be a recurring activity in the class.

The class will meet in two, one-and-a-half hour sessions per week. The class will have a combination of lecture material on a specific topic area, as well as analysis and synthesis of the reading material on this topic. There will be three to four short field trips in the class to observe issues of human/wildlife conflict first-hand.

Student Responsibilities and Grading

Students will be expected to be familiar with assigned readings and participate in the discussion sessions in each class. There will be a series of short, graded, written assignments, two research papers, and a final examination. Grading will be on the traditional, letter grade scale.

Course Texts

Cartmill, Matt. 1993. *A view to a death in the morning: Hunting and nature through history*. Cambridge: Harvard. 287 pp.

Kerasote, Ted. 1993. *Blood ties: Nature, culture, and the hunt*. New York: Kodansha Int'l. . 277 pp.

Geist, Valerius. 1996. *Buffalo nation: History and legend of the North American bison*. Stillwater, MN: Voyageur Press. 139 pp.

Freese, Curtis H. 1998. *Wild species as commodities: Managing markets for sustainability*. Washington, D.C.: Island Press. 319 pp.

Other reading materials:

Gebauer, A.B. and T.D. Price. 1992. *Foragers to farmers: An introduction*. IN: *Transitions of Agriculture in Prehistory*. Monographs in World Archeology 4. Madison: Prehistory Press. P. 1-10.

Moulton, M.P. and J. Sanderson. 1999. *Wildlife issues in a changing world*. New York: Lewis Publishing. P. 69-110.

Van de Wetering, Sarah. 2001. *Re-introduction of grizzly bears into the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness of Idaho and Montana*. New York: Claiborne/Ortenberg Foundation. 18 p.

Youmans, Heidi. 1992. *Statewide elk management plan for Montana*. Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks. Helena, MT.

Posewitz, Jim. 1998. *Inherit the hunt*. Helena, MT: Falcon Press.

Thomas, J.W. 1999. *The four "R's" of hunter education*. Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Missoula, MT: Bugle.

Lopez, Barry. 1987. *Of wolves and men*. Touchstone: New York.

Selections from Human Dimension of Wildlife. 2000. New York: Taylor and Francis.

Schedule

- September 4 Course introduction, student expectations.
READING: None
- September 6 The hunter hypothesis and the definition of hunting
READING: Cartmill, Chapters 1-3.
- September 11 The transition from hunter/gatherer to farmers
READING: Gebauer and Price, "Forager to farmer" (handout)
- September 13 Hunting through the ages
READING: Cartmill, Chapters 4-8
- September 18 Bambi
READING: Cartmill, Chapter 9
- September 20 The ethics of hunting
READING: Cartmill, Chapters 10-12
- September 25 Subsistence and hunting
READING: Kerasote, "Bloodties" Part I
- September 27 Trophy hunting
READING: Kerasote, "Bloodties" Part II
ASSIGNMENT: First research paper due
- October 2 Connections to the land
READING: Kerasote, "Bloodties" Part III
- October 4 Fair chase – the idea of respectful hunting -- *Guest program, Jack Ward Thomas*
READING: Thomas, "The four 'R's.'" Posewitz, "Inherit the hunt"
- October 9 Discussion session: Ethical hunting
READING: Various essays - To be announced

- October 11 The bison
 READING: “Buffalo Nation” Introduction, Chapters 1-2
- October 16 **FIELD TRIP - National Bison Range**
 READING: Buffalo Nation Chapters 3-4
- October 18 No class – long field trip Tuesday
 READING: None
- October 23 When animals are the problem –Deer
 READING: Selections from Wildlife Society bulletin, special issue on deer
- October 25 Wolves
 READING: Lopez “The beast of waste and desolation”
- October 30 Grizzly bears
 READING: Van de Wetering “Bitterroot Grizzlies”
- November 1 Discussion session: Predator control
 READING: Selections from “Human dimensions of wildlife”
- November 6 Issues in wildlife management
Second research paper due
 READING: None
- November 8 Wildlife trade
 READING: Moulton and Sanderson “Wildlife issues in a changing world”
- November 13 Commercial use of wildlife - overview
 READING: Freese Chapters 1 and 2
- November 15 Social and ecological issues of commercialized wildlife
 READING: Freese Chapters 3-5

