Fall 9-1-2001

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

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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.umt.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


Other reading materials:


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
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 20</td>
<td>Movie: Varmints</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 22</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class</td>
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<td>November 27</td>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
<td>Freese Chapter 6</td>
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<td>November 29</td>
<td>Discussion session – sustainable uses of wildlife</td>
<td>Freese Chapters 7 and 8</td>
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<td>December 4</td>
<td>Primitivist hunters</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
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<td>December 6</td>
<td>Wildlife in Africa</td>
<td>Selections from &quot;Problems in the management of locally abundant wildlife&quot;</td>
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<td>December 11</td>
<td>Return to Ethics</td>
<td>To be announced.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 13</td>
<td>Closing discussion/Evaluation</td>
<td>None</td>
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**Final examination – Monday, December 17, 3:20 – 5:20 p.m.**