

NR 5884 Human-Wildlife Conflict
Offered: Fall

INSTRUCTOR: Megan M. Draheim, Ph.D., mdraheim@vt.edu

REQUIRED TEXT: There is no required text for this class. Readings will be posted to Scholar and available for download.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Human-wildlife conflict resolution draws upon the need for multi-disciplinary approaches to resolve complex issues associated with human domination of ecosystems. The problems people have with wild animals and the problems wild animals have with people require the use of cooperative, collaborative, and innovative approaches if they are to be resolved in ways that maximize both social and ecological benefits. Nowhere do the challenges in this area loom larger than in our global urban and suburban environments. This course will draw upon some of the emerging issues associated with human-wildlife conflicts and through the use of case histories and examples explore the theory and practice of conflict management and transformation as well as the practical ethics needed to navigate contemporary wildlife management and conservation across the globe.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Grades will be computed on the following basis:

- Group Project: 20%
- Peer Reviews: 20%
- Individual Project: 20%
- Participation: 40%

SCHEDULE:

Week 1: What is Human-Wildlife Conflict? A Global Survey
Week 2: The Ecology of Human-Wildlife Conflict
Week 3: Conflict Resolution and Transformation Models in Theory and Practice
Week 4: Human-Wildlife Conflict and Ethics
Week 5: Social Sciences and Human-Wildlife Conflict
Week 6: Technical Solutions to Human-Wildlife Conflict
Week 7: Introduction to Case Studies
Weeks 8 - 12: Case Studies
Week 13: Case Study Debriefing and Presentation of Projects
Week 14: Putting it All Together: The Practice of Human-Wildlife Conflict Management
Week 15: Conclusion