

## ENVS40: SYNTHESIZING EMPIRICAL AND THEORETICAL APPROACHES TO CBNRM IN NAMIBIA

### Review of Key FSP Principles

1. Shift from passive to active learning – be a participant
2. Take intellectual and personal ownership of the FSP experience. Become a co-producer of knowledge
3. Synthesizing different ways of learning and knowing (empirical and theoretical)
4. Tolerance and patience for ambiguity, complexity and frustration
5. High expectations of personal maturity and accountability
6. Stepping out of your Dartmouth comfort-zone

While in Namibia we will visit a number of institutions that, broadly speaking, are engaged in community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) – specifically of wildlife and agricultural resources. As you might know the term CBNRM usually refers to the devolution of management and control of natural resources from larger scales to more local ones (e.g. to local communities). In practice this creates multiple, interacting scales of control and management (e.g. co-management). The institutions we will visit cross scales from international scale NGOs (e.g. Cheetah Conservation Fund) to the national scale (e.g. Etosha National Park) to the local community scale (e.g. Uibasen-Twyfelfontein Conservancy).

The primary pedagogy this course will employ is the synthesis of empirical (your own observations) and theoretical (from the academic literature) insights into the many interacting themes, both social and scientific, that CBNRM entails. Your challenge will be to articulate insights you gain from applying ideas from the literature to your own observations – and vice versa.

The deliverables for this course will include 3 short essays (1-2 pp.), one longer essay (5-7 pp.), and you will each participate in leading one of four discussions of the papers we read.

**Cheetah Conservation Fund** (17-18 Sept.) – we will be visiting and working with CCF an NGO focused on predator conservation and mitigating human-predator conflict.

Themes: predator-livestock conflict (coexistence), top-predator ecology, politics of global conservation non-profits

Estes, J. a, Terborgh, J., Brashares, J. S., Power, M. E., Berger, J., Bond, W. J., ... Wardle, D. a. (2011). Trophic downgrading of planet Earth. *Science (New York, N.Y.)*, 333(6040), 301–306.

Are there reasons to conserve predators beyond the fact that western tourists like them? This article describes the role of top predators in ecosystems.

\*Brockington, D., & Scholfield, K. (2010). The conservationist mode of production and conservation NGOs in sub-Saharan Africa. *Antipode*, 42(3), 551–575.

This article is a critical deconstruction of the ideology of some conservation NGOs in Africa. We will discuss this article while we are at Etosha.

WRITING PROMPT 1: Choose a conceptual theme from the Brockington and Scholfield article on Conservation NGOs and apply to some of your observations at Cheetah Conservation Fund.

Length: 1-2 double-spaced pages.

**Etosha National Park (19-21 Sept.)**– We will be visiting one of the premier national parks in Africa.

Themes: protected area management, “fortress conservation,” water provisioning

\*Wilshusen, P. R., Brechin, S. R., Fortwangler, C. L., & West, P. C. (2002). Reinventing a Square Wheel: Critique of a Resurgent “Protection Paradigm” in International Biodiversity Conservation. *Society & Natural Resources*, 15(1), 17–40. <http://doi.org/10.1080/089419202317174002>

examines the debate about the necessity of strictly protected areas for effective conservation

\*Butler, T., (2015). Introduction: Lives Not Our Own. In, Wuerthner, G., E. Crist and T. Bulter, eds., *Keeping the Wild: Against the Domestication of Earth*. Island Press, Washington D.C.

A brief critique of the “new conservation” or “neoliberal conservation.”

**Ongava Research Centre (22-25 Sept.)** – This research facility is associated with and supported by Ongava Tented Camp – a luxury tented camp adjacent to Etosha National Park.

Themes: protected area management, conservation research, wildlife fences,

WRITING PROMPT 2: Choose a conceptual theme from the Wilshusen et al. article on the “Protection Paradigm” and apply it to some of your observations at Etosha National Park and/or Ongava Research Centre.

Length: 1-2 double-spaced pages.

**Windpoort Farm** (26-27 Sept.) – we will be staying on a working game farm where tourist hunting and game meat harvest are practiced. While there we will also interact with a number of neighboring Euro-African cattle farmers.

Child, B. A., Musengezi, J., Parent, G. D., & Child, G. F. T. (2012). The economics and institutional economics of wildlife on private land in Africa. *Pastoralism: Research, Policy and Practice*, 2(1), 18.

This article uses a number of interesting conceptual frameworks to examine the relative merits of raising game or livestock in arid regions.

Ghasemi, B. (2020). Trophy hunting and conservation: Do the major ethical theories converge in opposition to trophy hunting? *People and Nature*, 3, 77-87.

This article uses ethical theories to evaluate the morality of trophy hunting.

WRITING PROMPT 3: Choose conceptual themes from Child et al. and or Ghasemi apply it to some of your observations at Windpoort Farm

Length: 1-2 double-spaced pages

**Twyfelfontein** (28 Sept. – 1 Oct.) – we will be engaging with members of the Uibasen-Twyfelfontein Conservancy. We will also visit the nearby World Heritage rock carvings.

Themes: Conservancy co-management, human-wildlife conflict, joint ventures

Gargallo, E. 2015. Conservation on contested lands: the case of Namibia's communal Conservancies. *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, 33: 213-231

Gargallo helps to illustrate the complex political, legal, economic and ethnic landscape that the Namibian conservancy movement is a part of.

Silva, J.A., & Motzer, N. (2014). Hybrid Uptakes of Neoliberal Conservation in Namibian Tourism-based Development. *Development and Change*, 46(1): 48–71.

This article reports on research conducted at the conservancy we'll be visiting on the ways in which nature-based tourism is perceived and influences the community.

FINAL WRITING PROMPT. Through our stops and our readings we have addressed a variety of dimensions of CBNRM in Namibia. Find one or more themes from the literature. Either from papers we have read or you can bring in other papers; 1-3 papers would be sufficient for this relatively short piece.

For this you could expand upon a theme from one of your shorter responses or combine themes from multiple responses or develop a completely new theme.

Combine this with your own observations from one or more of the sites we visited in a cohesive essay.

Length: 5-7 double-spaced pages

Due: Oct. 4, 5PM

**Assessment:** Verbal and written feedback will be provided on the individual components along the way, but no letter grades are given until a final grade is assigned based on the entire body of work at the end of the term. *In general, work that is deeper, more complex and more successfully struggles with the synthesis of observation and theory will receive higher grades.*

### Approximate weightings

Adherence to principles: 20%

Organize discussion: 10%

3 short written response: 35%

Final synthetic essay : 35%

### Calendar

date	day	location	activity	Academic due dates
11-Sep-23	M	Johannesburg	arrive Johannesburg	
12-Sep-23	Tu	Johannesburg	tour Soweto	
13-Sep-23	W	Johannesburg	Visit Apartheid Museum	
14-Sep-23	Th	Johannesburg	mine visit	
15-Sep-23	F	Windjhoek	fly to Namibia	
16-Sep-23	Sa	Windhoek	lectures, visit museum	
17-Sep-23	Su	Cheetah Conservation Fund ( <a href="https://cheetah.org/">https://cheetah.org/</a> )	travel to CCF	
18-Sep-23	M	Cheetah Conservation Fund	CCF programming	
19-Sep-23	Tu	Etosha National Park ( <a href="https://www.etoshanationalpark.org/">https://www.etoshanationalpark.org/</a> )	travel to Etosha	
20-Sep-23	W	Etosha	tour Etosha	
21-Sep-23	Th	Etosha	tour Etosha	Response 1 due; Discussion of CCF papers
22-Sep-23	F	Ongava Research Centre ( <a href="https://www.orc.eco/">https://www.orc.eco/</a> )	activities with Ongava staff	
23-Sep-23	Sa	Ongava Research Centre	activities with Ongava staff	
24-Sep-23	Su	Ongava Research Centre	activities with Ongava staff	
25-Sep-23	M	Ongava Research Centre	activities with Ongava staff	
26-Sep-23	Tu	Windpoort Farm	Windpoort Farm	
27-Sep-23	W	Windpoort Farm	Windpoort Farm	Response 2 due; Discussion of Etosha/Ongava papers
28-Sep-23	Th	Uibasen/Twyfelfontein Conservancy	travel to Conservancy	
29-Sep-23	F	Uibasen/Twyfelfontein Conservancy	activities with conservancy	
30-Sep-23	Sa	Uibasen/Twyfelfontein Conservancy	activities with conservancy	
1-Oct-23	Su	Uibasen/Twyfelfontein Conservancy	activities with conservancy	Response 3 due; Discussion of Windpoort papers
2-Oct-23	M	Swakopmund	rest, laundry	Discussion of Uibasen papers
3-Oct-23	Tu	Swakopmund	finish 40 academic work	
4-Oct-23	W	Swakopmund	finish 40 academic work	Final essay due 5 PM