

Course Syllabus
Summer 2019
4 credits

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Course Overview: In the first summer session (8 May - 8 June) Northern Michigan University students will have the opportunity to travel to Zambia as part of a Faculty Led Study Abroad program (FLSA). This will take students on an extensive expedition into a relatively unexplored area of an African country. On a four-day layover in London, students will visit sites that provide geographic, scientific, and historic links to their scientific training and field experience. The FLSA to Zambia will be led by Dr. Alec Lindsay and Dr. David Lafferty.

Course Objectives: Through participation in this course, students will:

- Develop field research techniques applicable for use in underdeveloped regions.
- Participate in a cross-cultural exchange of expertise and energy of peers, experts, and indigenous people.
- Improve their ability to critically evaluate scientific goals and projected outcomes under changing environmental conditions.
- Apply ecological, evolutionary, and genetic concepts to real-world situations.
- Appreciate the constraints that history, culture, politics, and science place on field research.
- Understand the challenges for wildlife conservation in Zambia.
- Observe the ecological organization and biodiversity in varying Zambian habitats.
- Gain an authentic experience with a several distinctly different cultures.

Prerequisites: BI 491 – Seminar in Introduction to Biological Research

Organizational Meetings: Participants must participate in the BI 491 seminar (Winter 2019). From that seminar, students will have done extensive reading on the history, the ecology, the culture and the politics of Zambia. At the weekly meetings students will discuss issues related to the course, practice using some of the major Zambian languages (Nyanja, Bembe and Tonga) and give presentations on their proposed studies to be performed during the trip.

Required Texts

(to be made available at The NMU Bookstore)

Zambia, 5th ed.

The Bradt Travel Guide (Paperback)

Author: Chris McIntyre

Publisher: Bradt Travel Guides

Others TBA

Grades

Grades will be determined based on participation (50%), project reports (40%) and presentations (10%).

Syllabus Available Upon Request

Requirements: (registration by permission of instructor ONLY)

Summary of requirements:

- Participation in travel abroad to London and Zambia
- Completion of field research in Zambia
- Written report or paper
- Organization of and participation in a "Zamposium"

Travel Abroad: The trip will include a four-day stopover in London, England. England and Zambia have unique cultural, political and social contexts. London students will gain an appreciation for the historic zoology and ecology of the British Museum of Natural History, Darwin's home in Downe, and tour the Royal Geographic Society (who sponsored such explorers as Livingstone, Stanley, and Baker). While in Zambia, students will be spending significant time working with local Zambians, including a 3-4 day stay in a rural village.

Self-designed Field Study: While in Zambia, students will perform basic biotic surveys of Zambian parks and wilderness areas. Students will design their own design. Students will meet and engage many Zambians of varied backgrounds – from Nyanja-speaking farmers living along the Litemwe River to Zambian scientists and naturalist guides working in the bush. Students will get to interact with conservation scientists doing work in Zambia, and spend time with them in the field. Students will each be responsible for their own field study, but will depend on assistance from other students for data collection, and local community leaders for guidance and design development. Students enrolled in BI 295 will be responsible for assisting in projects.

Reports and Symposium: Upon returning to Northern, students will be required write to 8-12 page papers reporting on their field study (BI 495). Students who enrolled in BI 295 will be responsible for writing a report on their experience in the field studies, detailing the process they observed and the outcomes they helped produce. Students will be required to write essays during the travel and upon returning. In Fall of 2025, students will be required to present the discoveries and experiences they had in Zambia.

Disability Accommodation

If you have a need for disability-related accommodations or services, please inform the Coordinator of Disability Services in the Disability Services Office by: coming into the office at 2001 C. B. Hedgcock; calling 227-1700; or e-mailing disserv@nmu.edu. Reasonable and effective accommodations and services will be provided to students if requests are made in a timely manner, with appropriate documentation, in accordance with federal, state, and University guidelines.

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