

PLEASE NOTE THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. THE FINAL VERSION WILL BE ON OUR WEBSITE BY FEBRUARY 10

**WOODSWORTH COLLEGE
University of Toronto
Summer 2016 Program in Australia
Friday June 17 to Friday July 22, 2016 (5 weeks)
*ENV396Y0 – Special Topics: Australian Environment, Wildlife and Conservation***

This course offers an unparalleled opportunity for students to receive a first-hand introduction to Australia's environment and wildlife through the eyes of local experts.

This course is contextualized within the global ecological crisis and considers the development of environmental values and awareness and describes environmental controversies and how they are addressed. In consideration of these issues, Australia's unique flora and fauna are examined and the various climatically varied regions visited are highlighted throughout the course.

The program outlines and exposes students to the challenges in managing natural and cultural heritage in the 21st century. Aboriginal perspectives of the Australian landscape and their cultural ties to the environment are explored, along with how these considerations are incorporated into management of national parks.

Course Aims:

The course provides a range of learning experiences designed to:

1. Introduce the diverse landscape types in Australia, with direct experience of some key examples, including:
 - a. Wet/Dry tropics: Kakadu National Park (World Heritage Area), Northern Territory
 - b. Coastal temperate: Blue Mountains National Park (World Heritage Area); Sydney Harbour National Park, NSW
 - c. Tropical rainforest: Daintree National Park (Wet Tropics World Heritage Area), Far North Queensland
2. Understand how geological change in Australia, along with human culture, has influenced the evolution of Australia's unique biodiversity.
3. Develop an appreciation of Aboriginal cultural links to the Australian landscape and frameworks for Aboriginal involvement in protected area management.
4. Present Australian biodiversity conservation as a case study within the context of the global ecological crisis and introduce some of the unique flora and fauna and the threats to their existence, through direct experience.
5. Introduce natural and cultural heritage conservation management principles, practices, legislation and issues.
6. Introduce students to wildlife survey methods used in conservation.

Assessment: (to be confirmed)

Attendance and active participation in all aspects of the course is compulsory including attendance on field trips.

Field Notebook	(Northern Territory/Blue Mountains)	15%
Written Report	(Kakadu & Blue Mountains)	20%
Field Experiment	(Smiths Lake Field Station)	10%
Group Presentation	(Sydney)	15%
Exam	(Cairns, end of program)	30%
Journals	(Throughout)	10%

Note that the above assessment weighting out of 100 will be scaled back to be out of 80, to allow for 20% for the final research paper to be completed after the program and graded by U of T.

Final Research Paper (After course completion, date TBC, graded by U of T) **20%**

Texts:

Students will receive a course reader as part of their fees. Some textbooks will be made available during the program for reference.

Course Teaching Staff:

The following are brief biographies for the instructors that will be delivering the course content. While in Sydney at UNSW, students will also benefit from guest lectures by experts in environmental and wildlife conservation.

Dr. Rosalie Chapple, University of New South Wales & Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute

Rosalie Chapple teaches part-time in environmental studies at the University of NSW and is Executive Director of the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute. She has been involved in wildlife and biodiversity conservation for 25 years, with an early focus on animal biology and behavior, widening to include the social and policy aspects of conservation. She worked at Taronga Zoo (Sydney) for several years before co-founding the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute, which focuses on research and community engagement for the conservation and management of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, west of Sydney. Her recent studies include control of introduced species including wild horses, and conservation of quolls and dingoes.

Mr. Brad Nesbitt, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Brad Nesbitt has worked in conservation and natural resource management for over 25 years with extensive experience in national park and wildlife management, ecological research & survey, and cross cultural land management. He has worked with Aboriginal groups throughout Australia developing cooperative management partnerships between Government and Indigenous communities. He currently works as a natural & cultural resource management consultant and with the New South Wales National Parks & Wildlife Service on invasive animal control including wild horse & European fox control, dingo and threatened shorebird conservation and management.

Mr. Geoff Ross, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Geoff Ross is a Wildlife Management Officer with the New South Wales National Parks & Wildlife Service and has worked in the field of Wildlife Conservation and Management for over thirty years. Geoff has extensive experience in field survey, vertebrate capture and monitoring techniques having previously worked on carnivorous marsupials, kangaroos, venomous reptiles and several bird species. Currently research interests include; the urban ecology of the Australian Brush Turkey; the abundance of Humpback whales during their annual migration and the population health and dynamics of Australian Pelican.