**Syllabus for AFR 308 Conservation and Management of African Mammals**

Instructor: Dr. Stephanie Foré

**Course Description:**

This 3 credit hour course is aimed at individuals passionate about wildlife who wish to become a part of conservation in action. Wildlife management has become an accepted and necessary part of wildlife conservation. Successful management includes monitoring and moving animals to reestablish the checks and balances of nature in managed systems. This type of work requires specialized training and experience which the students will receive through this wildlife capture course.

This course emphasizes professional and humane animal handling and covers practical techniques to maximize field success and human/animal safety, including chemical and mechanical game capture techniques, drug delivery systems, modern immobilization drugs, wildlife diseases, common species capture, rehabilitation and release of endangered mammals, occupational health hazards, translocation equipment and holding facilities.

This course involves preparatory seminars at Truman State University (1 hr/wk during second block of spring 2019 semester) in which we will explore the conservation and issues of large mammals and compare these issues in North America and South Africa. The course culminates in 9 days of hands-on work and instruction with Parawild Safari operating in the Limpopo Province of South Africa. Parawild instructors will give a few lectures and demonstrations and include students in the work of animal captures as extensive as possible, limited by field conditions, the species being handled, and safety issues.

Learning Objectives:

* Compare and contrast environmental difference between Missouri and South Africa
* Develop a deeper understanding of why large mammals are an important conservation issue
* Develop a deeper understanding of the socio-political constraints in conservation (compare and contrast the United States and South Africa)
* Gain factual knowledge about and hands-on practice in safe and humane handling methods
* Consider why management is part of conservation

Grading Criteria:

* 30% Participation: full participation in all discussions and activities is expected.
* 30% Journal: Maintain a journal that includes written summaries of papers read, classes on game capture, and actual capture processes. Will be graded for completeness and the development of scientific thought processes related to conservation and game management as well your personal thoughts and observations.
* 20% Final Written Review: This will be a typed report with prompt to be provided during the spring semester.
* 10% Other graded assignments: These assignments will be homework during the spring semester.
* 10% Deportment: We will be in a different country with different values AND working with wild animals. It is important that we leave a positive impression on the people that we interact with AND conduct ourselves in a way that keeps us all as safe as possible. This includes following the instructions of all instructors.