

Thank You, Madagascar: The Conservation Diaries of Alison Jolly
(Un)Common Read – IDH2930, section 14AF

INSTRUCTOR:

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CLASS MEETINGS:

Fridays, January 13-February 24, periods 7-8 (1:55 pm – 3:50 pm), Room C2-41A (Health Science Center Library Collaboration Center, Communicore Building).

OFFICE HOURS:

Dr. Tennant’s office hours: Fridays, 11:00 am-12:00 pm

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND GOALS:

Madagascar is home to some of the world’s most unique flora and fauna and contains one of the highest levels of biodiversity on the planet. This biodiversity is highly threatened due to environmental degradation and loss, endangering wildlife, and is taking a toll on the culture and daily life of the Malagasy people. Primatologist Alison Jolly began her work on lemurs in Madagascar in the 1960s, and over parts of six decades, expanded our knowledge of the biological present and evolutionary history of these primates. She was the first to document female social dominance in a non-human primate; a controversial assertion at that time. While this work was ground-breaking, her efforts to conserve and sustain the natural wonders of Madagascar was perhaps of greater importance. Through her many years in Madagascar, she gained keen insights into the competing factors that arise when one discusses conservation and sustainability in a developing country. *Thank You, Madagascar* contains excerpts from Jolly’s diaries as well as contemporary commentary from her on these issues. Jolly understood that no conservation or sustainability effort would be successful in the long-term if local culture, politics and economics, as well as personal relationships were not considered from the outset.

After reading the book “Thank You, Madagascar”, participating in class discussion, and completing the two assignments, students will have an understanding of:

- Malagasy culture, geography, biodiversity, and conservation;
- the ways in which culture, biology, geography, economics, and politics affect conservation and sustainability efforts;
- the uniqueness of Madagascar’s biodiversity, and why it is important to conserve it for the Malagasy, as well as for the rest of mankind;

- and the ways in which NGOs can impact a region.

Students will also have the opportunity to reflect on how the class prepared them to make a positive impact on their environment and what steps they will take to do so.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

- January 13, Class 1: Introductions to each other and to Madagascar; discussion of all pages before and including Chapter 1: “Our Country is Committing Suicide”; pages from Bradt Guide
- January 20, Class 2: Discussion of Part I: Villages (chapters 2-5)
- January 27, Class 3: Discussion of Part II: Politics: Saving Madagascar (chapters 6-11); students have final project approved by instructor by this date
- February 3 Class 4: Discussion of Part III: Research and Development (chapters 12-18)
- February 10, Class 5: Discussion of Part IV: Weather (chapters 19-22) AND first set of student presentations
- February 17, Class 6: Discussion of Part V: Money (chapters 23-25) AND second set of student presentations
- February 24, Class 7: Student project presentations and class wrap up

GRADING:

Students will present and lead 1 discussion of readings from the course list (these are instructor-selected papers and other documents listed in the footnotes of “Thank You, Madagascar”). Each presentation will be worth 50 points. Each student will also complete a final assignment, which will be worth 100 pts. This class project can be delivered in a variety of formats – for example, an academic paper (with presentation given in class) or poster tied to the issues covered in class and through the readings, or a personal reflection or creative endeavor underscoring how the class prepared you to make a positive impact on your environment and what steps they will take to do so.

Students will also be evaluated on participation in classroom discussions, each worth 10 points. The following rubric will be used:

0 points = unexcused absence.

2 point = present but does not contribute.

6 points = participates in discussion by adding an opinion, posing thoughtful questions, and answering questions.

10 points = makes exemplary contributions to discussion by integrating concepts, introducing novel perspectives, and drawing out contributions from classmates.

The point total for the class is 220 (50 points presentations/discussion lead, 100 points from final project, and 70 points from attendance and participation). Your final grade will be based on the percentage of these total 220 points earned as follows:

<u>Point Range (%)</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
90% and above	A
87%-89%	A-
83%-86%	B+
80%-82%	B
77%-79%	B-
73%-76%	C+
70%-72%	C
65%-69%	C-
55%-64%	D
54% and below	E

UF GRADING POLICIES:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

ATTENDANCE:

Requirements for class attendance, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>. Attendance at and participation in class sessions are mandatory, and is worth 32% of the total course grade.

It is understood that valid absences may occur. If you have a valid documented excuse and notify the instructor by email in advance, you will be able to make up missed class discussions through written means.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

The required textbook is "Thank You, Madagascar", by Alison Jolly, ISBN: 9781783603183.

COURSE WEBSITE:

Course website: E-Learning (Canvas) website, <http://lss.at.ufl.edu>

The E-Learning (Canvas) website is where the class syllabus, handouts, notes and assignments will be posted, along with any announcements. This site is also where you will find basic course-related information. Please remember that you are responsible for all announcements made in lecture and/or posted on the course website for this class.

ONLINE COURSE EVALUATION PROCESS:

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES FEES:

There are no materials and supplies fees assessed for this class.

UNIVERSITY HONESTY POLICY:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code". On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with class instructor.

- Academic dishonesty cannot be tolerated. All persons involved in cheating or plagiarism will receive a zero on the affected assignment or quiz, and will be reported to the Dean of Students Office.

STUDENT DEMEANOR

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and to remain in class until the class has been dismissed. Students are expected to come to class prepared, having completed any required readings and performed any preparatory work that is assigned. While in class, students are expected to participate in class discussion, and to treat the other students and the instructor with respect and attention. While in class, students should not participate in texting, information seeking or viewing outside of that related to the course task at hand, talking on the phone, or other activities not related to classroom engagement and participation.

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: 392-1575
<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>

Contact information for the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.