Ethics of Zoos from a Global Perspective

Introduction

Students will work collaboratively with the instructor to design the course together. Students will suggest relevant readings, documentaries/films, and field trips for the course and work together to outline a schedule that explores all of these things. Students will also decide together on a final project that will share our findings about ethics of zoos throughout the world with interested parties. If students cannot decide on a final project, the instructor will assign the creation of a website where viewers will learn best practices for visiting zoos that treat animals ethically.

This course was designed with the LC learning objectives in mind:

1. To develop critical, analytical, and investigative skills to formulate educated responses to a specific problem or question
2. To develop personal and leadership skills to work collaboratively toward the completion of a common project
3. To develop skills and awareness as concerned and engaged global citizens

as it is centered around the question, *"Are zoos ethical?"* In also keeping with the LC goals, we will investigate this question not just for zoos in the United States, but throughout the world, and seek ways in which we can make change with regards to the treatment of animals everywhere.

An important aspect of this LC will be the travel to zoos in Southern California, but also observation of animals in their natural habits. While visiting these places, we can observe animals and speak to employees about the mission of their institutions.

Abstract for LC (from Brightspace)

In this LC, we will seek to investigate the question, *"Are zoos ethical?"*

A zoo is a facility in which animals are housed within enclosures, cared for, displayed to the public, and in some cases bred for conservation purposes. As we question the ethics of zoos, we will look at their history and how they exist in today's world, throughout the world. We'll ask ourselves: What's good about zoos? What's bad about zoos? Are they beneficial? Are they harmful? Are they *necessary?*

Working together with students, we will decide how we can properly investigate our question and then put that plan into action during our winter term.

Students interested in this LC should send me an email (kperry@soka.edu) with the following information:

- A brief self-introduction
- Why you're interested in this LC
- Something you think our LC should do to investigate the ethics of zoos and why. This can be something like:
    - An article or book we should read
    - A film or documentary we should watch

- A local (within 1.5 hours) field trip we should take
- A topic we should be sure to research

Please feel free to include any other thoughts or ideas in your email.

Grading:

Grading will be split into the following categories:

Slack participation - 10%
In-class participation/discussion - 20%
Assignments - 40%
Final Project - 30%

Schedule:

Day 1 1/9: Introductions and Planning

Day 1 Take Home Work:

Create a Google Blog (Blogger) and message me the link on Slack
Do the Day 1 Blog Post (prompt is in the #blogs channel), due before class tomorrow
For the main topic you selected (Conservation, Requirements, Cultural Perspectives, etc.) please identify the things we discussed researching in class that fit under the umbrella of your topic and share that as a post in the #topics channel.
For class tomorrow, please research the following:
Concept and History of Zoos
What is a zoo?
What have they looked like throughout history?
What roles have zoos played in our society?

Day 2 1/10: History of Zoos, Course Topic Selection

Day 2 Take Home Work:

Leave a thoughtful comment on at least two students' blog posts from Day 1 take home
Research and decide on at least one field trip location that you think we should go to. Note that it is okay to second someone else's suggestion, but will also help with our planning if enough students also contribute some new ideas. Ideas from class to use as a starting off point were the following:
San Diego Zoo
A "not so good" zoo for comparison
Aquarium
Begin your Week 2 topic planning
Students will be responsible for leading our learning of the assigned topic, though this may be done in any way your group likes. This will include:

- Leading class the day we cover your topic
- Assigning work for students to do in preparation of class
- Creating a related blog prompt for students to answer

An outline of what your group plans to do will be due by Sunday, January 15th at 11:59pm to me via Slack message

I'm also happy to meet or stay after class for groups to bounce ideas off of!

As you're researching, if you come across something or come up with a good idea that you think one or some of the other groups would find helpful, please share it

Day 3 1/11: Documentary: *Should we Close our Zoos?*, Field Trip Planning

Day 3 Take Home Work:

- Do the Day 3 #blogs Prompt before class tomorrow
- Continue your Week 2 topic planning
  - Reminder - an outline will be due by Sunday, Jan 15th at 11:59pm
- Begin your field trip research planning
  - Decisions and research should be finalized and shared with the class in the #field-trips channel by this Friday, Jan 13th at 11:59pm
- Share an idea about the final projects in the #final-project Slack channel !
  - (This is in bold because I forgot to formally assign it during class, but it is assigned and I would like every student to share or comment on an idea or offer a thought before class tomorrow to help facilitate our discussion!)

Day 4 1/12: Documentary: *Blackfish*, Final Project Planning

Day 4 Take Home Work (in order of due date!):

- Due Friday 1/13 11:59pm: Field trip planning post in #field-trips
  - One exception - Makoto, Mallorie, and Sasha's group has a Saturday 1/14 11:59pm due date
- Due Sunday 1/15 11:59pm: Day 4 #blogs prompt
- Due Sunday 1/15 11:59pm: Week 2 Topic planning outline (due via Slack message)
  - The outline should contain the following:
    - A list of items you will assign to the students to do in order to prepare for the class assigned to your topic
    - A related prompt for students to answer in the blogs before coming to class
    - An outline for what you will do in class that day
- Due Monday 1/16 11:59pm: Final Project Proposal (due via Slack message)
  - The proposal should contain the following:
    - Group members (limit 1-2)
    - A short paragraph summary of your proposed project that describes the project and how it relates to one or both of our chosen themes:
      - *What can we do?*
      - *Are zoos ethical?*

A proposed schedule for the main tasks associated with the project and when you will complete each task, with the final project itself being due Mon 1/30

Due Tuesday 1/17 before class: comment on at least two other students' blog posts

Day 5 1/13: Field Trip - Whale Watching Dana Point

Day 6 1/17: American Requirements for Zoos

Day 6 Take Home Work:

Due by 11:59pm tonight 1/17 (two separate blog posts):

Answer the Policy and Regulations group's blog prompt, shared by @Nina Battioni in the #blogs channel

Answer the Requirements group's blog prompt, shared by @Finleyrose Wyatt in the #blogs channel

If you are in the Policy and Regulations group OR the Requirements group only:

Due by class tomorrow 1/18: comment on 2 of the blog post made by students on the prompt your group created.

Day 7 1/18: Policy and Regulations

Day 7 Take Home Work:

Watch the two videos @Tina Wang posted above before class tomorrow

Day 8 1/19: Human and Public Interference

Day 8 Take Home Work:

Please meet in the same spot as last time (by Peace Lake) at 12:30pm

Thank you @Finleyrose Wyatt for the nice post in the #field-trips channel!

Day 8 blog post prompt(s) shared by @Tina Wang in the #blogs channel - due by Saturday at 11:59pm

Tina's group should comment on 2 of these posts before class Monday instead of answering the prompt

Be thinking about..

Your topic/field trip planning for next week - Outlines will be due by Sunday at 11:59pm

Final projects - accountability groups will be asked to meet over the weekend to discuss projects

Day 9 1/20: Field Trip - Santa Ana Zoo

Day 9 Take Home Work:

Due Sat 1/21 at 11:59pm: Day 8 blog post prompt(s) shared by Tina in the #blogs channel

- Tina's group should comment on 2 of these posts before class Monday instead of answering the prompt
- Due Sun 1/22 at 11:59pm: Week 3 #topics planning outline (due via Slack message)
  - The outline should contain the following:
    - A list of items you will assign to the students to do in order to prepare for the class assigned to your topic
    - A related prompt for students to answer in the blogs after class
    - An outline for what you will do in class that day
- Due before class Mon 1/23:
  - Please meet with your final project accountability group at least once over the weekend. During your meeting please do the following:
    - Briefly share a bit about your project with group members and discuss your outlines and due dates
      - It might be nice if your outlines were similar so that you'll working on similar things at similar times
  - Share a fun photo of your group in the #photos-and-videos
  - Optional, but strongly encouraged - spend a few hours working on your projects side by side as motivation to get started or continue working

Day 10 1/23: Economics of Zoos

- Due by 11:59pm Tonight 1/23: Answer the blog prompt shared by @Makoto Suzuki in the #blogs channel
  - @Makoto Suzuki and @PN, please comment on at least two posts by tomorrow 1/24 at 11:59pm
- Due before class tomorrow 1/24 (in preparation for Conservation Group):
  - Watch the linked videos
    - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h5eTqjzQZDY
    - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3l87NywToQ
  - Read article on red wolves
    - https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/red-wolves-preventing-extinction-next-steps
- Before class tomorrow: Answer the interest poll in the #lc-fair channel

Other things to be working on:

- Final project
  We're going to SD Zoo on Wednesday (we'll discuss logistics in class tomorrow and sign forms!) What kinds of things are you hoping to get out of this trip?

Day 11 1/24: Conservation Efforts at Zoos

Day 11 Take Home Work:

- Due by 11:59pm 1/24 tonight: Answer the blog prompt shared by @Nina Battioni in the #blogs channel (choose one of the questions; you don't need to answer all!)

Nina, Sasha, and Jiheng, please comment on at least two posts by tomorrow 1/25 at 11:59pm

Day 12 1/25: Field Trip - San Diego Zoo

Day 13 1/26: Working Day - Meet with Final Project Groups

Please do the following before class Friday

Work on your final project -- students are encouraged to do this in groups, but that's not required

Do the following assigned by @Tina Wang, @Lenia Holt, and @Jelina Caro-Alvarez for their class on Friday:

Interview random 1 to 2 students from different cultures/countries about their opinions toward zoos/animals, and be prepared to share with the class

Day 14 1/27: Cultural and Regional Influence

Day 14 Take Home Work:

Due by Sunday at 11:59pm

Respond to the blog prompt shared by @Lenia Holt in the #blogs channel

Lenia, Tina, and Jelina, please comment on at least two people's blog posts by Monday at 11:59pm

Due by Tuesday at 1:00pm (start of class): FINAL PROJECTS

Note that all of your timelines should have had the due date as Monday, but we will go to the aquarium Monday and do final project presentations Tuesday in class

During class Tuesday, each student (or group of 2 students) will present their projects. Some projects are themselves presentations and so will most likely take a bit longer than others, where the bulk of the work was the creation of something (like a painting, digital art, story, or data visualization). I would still like for each person to present their work and spend some time talking about the work and process - not just say "here's my project thanks!" So please plan on that.

We'll chat a bit more at the aquarium about how this will go.

Students are encouraged, but not required, to meet with their final project accountability group to work together this weekend!

I'm looking forward to seeing all of the projects and hope that y'all are too

Day 15 1/30: Field Trip - Aquarium of the Pacific

Day 16 1/31: Final Project Presentations and Dinner