

OLLI at DU On Campus Syllabus – Spring 2024

Protecting Wildlife Species Around the World

Wednesday Mornings Online; 1st four weeks

Instructor: Jeffery Rucks

RECOMMENDED BOOKS OR MATERIALS: Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold

Each week we will discuss a new and unique challenge facing world wildlife. I will present a specific example to the group, and we will dialog how to address this challenge.

- **Session #1 – PEOPLE VS. WILDLIFE: THE HISTORY OF PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD**
Wildlife populations took a beating in the 18th and 19th century, and it took heroic efforts and aggressive policies to prevent the complete destruction of the worlds game animals. We will discuss what makes our country unique in the world in how we manage our wildlife.
- **Session #2 – CRITICALLY ENDANGERED WILDLIFE AND WHAT IS BEING DONE TO SAVE THEM**
We will discuss specific examples in Africa and other places where wildlife have been all but wiped out by human activities both legal and illegal. Case study: The destruction of the Monterey Bay sardine industry.
- **Session #3 – INVASIVE SPECIES AND THE MESS IN FLORIDA**
Florida is a classic case study in invasive species disasters happening all over the world. African pythons are taking over the everglades and the reefs are becoming overrun by lionfish. What is going on in Florida and what can be done to stop it?
- **Session #4 – REINTRODUCTION EFFORTS AND SUCCESS STORIES**
In December 2023 wolves were released in Colorado. This reintroduction is one of the most controversial actions ever taken by our state wildlife agency, We will discuss this and other efforts to reestablish wildlife species in places they once thrived. Then we will wrap up with expectations and predictions for the future, as our human population and its demands on resources continues to grow.