

Ithaca Seminar
Saving Nature: A Look at Whales
100 - 10106 Fall 2005

Preliminary Schedule

(A 25) R: Intro to course

(A 30) T: Perceptions of whales
Turn in journal.

(S 1) R: Media literacy
Guest speaker: Cynthia Scheibe (Psychology, School of Humanities and Sciences)

(S 6) T: Traditional hunting of whales

(S 8) R: Commercial whaling

(S 13) T: What whaling allowed scientists/naturalists to learn about whale biology
Short paper due

(S 15) R: Science and Evolution

(S 20) T: Whale evolution: becoming aquatic
Short paper due

(S 22) R: Field trip to Cornell's Lab of Ornithology, Bioacoustics Lab

(S 27) T: Social structure, intelligence, and culture of toothed whales (dolphins, killer whales, and sperm whales)
Short paper due

(S 29) R: Social structure, intelligence, and culture of baleen whales (esp. humpback whales)

(O 4) T: Why save biological diversity? The moral status of animals and intrinsic values of nature.
Guest discussion leader: Frederick Kauffman (Philosophy, School of Humanities and Sciences)

(O 6) R: Why save biological diversity? Instrumental and intrinsic values of nature.

Participate in a game on tragedy of the commons outside of class with the Ithaca Seminar on Sustainability

(O 11) T: Conservation: International regulation
Midterm paper due (must take to the Writing Center before turning it in).
Turn in journal

(O 13) R: Fall Break

(O 18) T: Being on the science advisory board of the International Whaling Commission.
Guest speaker: Chris Clark (Bioacoustics Lab, Cornell University; member of U.S. delegation to the IWC science advisory board)

(O 20) R: Species, populations – what are they?

(O 25) T: Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act.
Guest speaker: Marlene Barken (Business Administration, School of Business) on environmental policy

(O 27) R: How environmental groups get involved.

(N 1) T: Reserves to protect species and ecosystems
Short paper due

(N 3) R: Overview of the threats whales and dolphins currently face.

(N 8) T: Toxins in beluga whales

(N 10) R: Noise pollution
Guest speaker: Susan Parks (Bioacoustics Lab, Cornell University)

(N15) T: Scientific whaling
Short paper due
Turn in journal

(N 17) R: Recovery of whale species

THANKSGIVING BREAK (N 22, 24)

(N 29) T: Evaluating / updating the “Save the Whales” game
Book review due

(D 1) R: Each group will write a radio script
Guest speaker: Production manager of *Our Ocean World*, Finger Lakes Productions International
Final paper is due (again, must take to the Writing Center before turning it in)

(D 6) T: Group work on presentations (what is the most important conservation issue your species faces and what can be done about it?)

(D 8) R: Course wrap-up

(D 14; T 7:30-10am) Final Exam Period: Groups give their presentations.