

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- www.unine.ch/lettres

Introduction to the anthropology of conservation (2ET2243)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Master en conservation de la biodiversité	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	3
Pilier principal M ScS - anthropologie	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire M ScS - anthropologie	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

Equipe enseignante

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Contenu

This course engages with biodiversity and environmental conservation as a social and cultural object. Beyond the explicit objective of doing conservation, many questions can be explored when looking at actual practices, the logics that underpin them, the types of social relations they create and the diverse outcomes they produce. This means considering conservation as a complex social object and not as an obvious endeavour or mission.

During the class we will engage with diverse critical perspectives on conservation, from the perspective of social sciences and most specifically the anthropology of conservation. We will engage with a diversity of texts dealing with issues of power, knowledge and ways of relating to "nature" – all very important topics in social sciences – in the context of conservation. This will guide us into an exploration of several theoretical framings and discuss their potential to nurture and transform classical approaches to conservation.

A prior focus of conservation anthropology on conservation practices in the Global South will help us to work with the diversity of human societies and the global power relations they are entangled. But we will also mobilise examples closer to us, using similar concepts and questions, in order to identify issues and challenges in conservation policies and projects.

BE AWARE: There is NO class on the 19.09.2023.

The first day of class is the 26.09.2023: normal time (8.15-10.00) for students in Social Sciences, and in the afternoon for students in Biodiversity Conservation (in the context of the Biodiversity conservation in context week)

The classes continue on a regular and weekly basis from the 03.10.2023 for all students.

The class will be in English, but students are welcome to express themselves (orally and written) in French if they prefer.

Forme de l'évaluation

During the semester students (in groups) will have to present a paper and lead a discussion during class (1/2 of final mark).

At the end of the semester, students will have to provide written answers to a series of questions in the form of a short take-home exam. The questions will be provided one week before the end of the semester. Deadline for submitting answers: 15.01.2024.

Students from the MA in Social Sciences will have to work on an additional task, in relation to the 2 additional ECTS they will get for the teaching (more details in class)

Modalités de rattrapage

In case of failure, deadline for a second submission of the take-home exam (new questions): 10.06.2024

Documentation

References and bibliography will be communicated in class

Pré-requis

none

Forme de l'enseignement

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The class mobilizes teaching activities implying a variation of roles for students: frontal teaching, reading seminars, collective discussion, and contributions from external experts.

Objectifs d'apprentissage

Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

- Question diverse social and cultural logics guiding conservation in practice
- Identify social and cultural issues related to conservation
- Produce analyses using concepts from the literature in conservation anthropology

Compétences transférables

- Combine different forms of knowledge in interdisciplinary thinking
- Examine social practice from a diversity of perspectives
- Criticise social practices in a constructive way