

Elephants and Conservation Ecology: Thailand and Laos

Short Name: Thai & Lao Elephant Conserv

Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 68

- Lecture Hours: 28
- Direct Studies: 30 (80 at 2:1 ratio)

Course Description

Asian elephants are critical to the biodiversity of Southeast Asia, playing an essential role in maintaining the health of ecosystems through seed dispersal and habitat modification. However, due to habitat loss, human-wildlife conflict, and poaching, their populations have been significantly reduced. These majestic creatures face numerous threats, making their conservation vital not only for their survival but also for the preservation of the regions they inhabit. Their cultural and ecological significance makes them an invaluable focus for conservation efforts.

This immersive program offers a unique opportunity to study the conservation of Asian elephants through field-based experiences in Thailand and Laos. Students engage with elephant care in wildlife sanctuaries, elephant camps, and conservation centers, learning about the ecology, behavior, and health of these iconic animals. The course explores conservation challenges and strategies in a real-world context, emphasizing the intersection of biology, cultural practices, and conservation efforts.

Participants will learn about the challenges in managing human-elephant conflicts, elephant health, and understanding their ecological role in tropical environments. Through site visits to UNESCO World Heritage areas and involvement in local conservation projects, students will acquire the skills needed to assess and support elephant conservation initiatives. The course also integrates cultural perspectives on elephants, examining the societal and ethical aspects of their management in Southeast Asia.

Course Objectives

The objectives for this course are to:

- Develop an understanding of elephant biology, behavior, and ecology.
- Analyze conservation strategies, including challenges and opportunities.
- Evaluate the cultural, economic, and ecological roles of elephants in Thai and Lao societies.
- Build skills in field research, ecological assessment, and cultural immersion.

Methodology

This course combines lectures, readings, and discussions with hands-on field experiences. Activities include:

- Field research and ecological surveys.
- Cultural immersion through homestays and local collaborations.
- Guest lectures by conservationists, ecologists, and local experts.
- Visits to elephant sanctuaries, national parks, and UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Grading and Assessment

Engagement

This means participation in and out of the classroom, being an active member of the course, and being fully present and engaged in the field. This includes participation in discussions during seminars and in the village, etc. This also means being an active and supportive member of the course, including as a designated leader and active follower/self leadership. 10

Writing

Seminar and Observation Notes: An important component of learning to observe and analyze the issues during this course is taking notes in class as well as keeping an on-going daily journal of observations outside the classroom. Please put the date at the top of each page. 10

Essays: There are two (2) essays during the course. Essays should be 4-5 pages long in your journal, and cover the following points: 20

- How this issue or topic links to the overall topic of the course. (1)
- Why you are interested in this specific issue or topic. (1)
- A description and analysis of the specific issue and why it is important. (5)
- Reference to interviews or observations during the course. (2)
- Other questions that this issue raises for you to explore further. (1)

Independent Field Research Project (IFRP)

Each student will choose an issue **related to the course** to study independently. This should be a combination of research, observations, and analysis of a topic that the student is interested in. The **emphasis is primarily on field observations** drawing on field studies as well as independent observations. This is not a book report or literature review, but field research. **Students must receive instructor approval for their chosen topic/issue.**

Proposal: The IFRP proposal is a written outline and a short presentation to the class explaining the question, how it is related to the course topic, how data will be gathered, and any potential challenges you may anticipate running into. 1 page typed as well as an in-class presentation. 15

Progress update: An update during the course on what the student has discovered about their topic so far, what further questions this raises, any challenges and how they have been overcome, as well as further information they will be looking for during the second half of the field study. 1 page written in your notebook as well as an in-class presentation. 5

Final Presentation: On the last day of the course each student will give a five minute presentation on their research. Focus on clarity, field observations, interviews/discussions with community members, and analytical depth. 5-10 slides in PDF format. 20

Organization for final presentation

1. What did you study/research focus? How is this related to the course topic? (2)
2. How did you study this, including observations and interviews? (3)
3. What did you learn? Findings and analysis. (8)
4. Further questions this raises for you. (1)
5. Final slide of references / interviews. (1)

Final Exam

The final exam will be a comprehensive review of course topics with an emphasis on what was learned during the field portion of the course. There will be 10 short answer questions. Students may use their notes but not their readers or the internet during the exam. 20

TOTAL 100

Schedule Overview

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|--|
| <p>June 1 - Chiang Mai, TH</p> <p>AM :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation <p>Lunch at ISDSI</p> <p>PM :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Introduction • Thai Class (Room 2E) <p>• 6PM : Welcome Dinner</p> | <p>June 2 - Utaiani, TH</p> <p>08:00AM : Leave ISDSI</p> <p>Travel to Thung-Yai Huay Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary at Utaiani Province</p> <p>(8 hours - ride)</p> <p>Lunch along the way</p> <p>PM : Dinner and check-in at the sanctuary</p> | <p>June 3 - Utaiani, TH</p> <p>AM : Meet with rangers, Introduction about Huay Kha Keang Wildlife Sanctuary and Sueb Naka Satien Memorial House</p> <p>PM : Hiking at “Baan Kong Suea” nature trail and world heritage exhibition hall</p> <p>Dinner</p> <p>Observation of elephant surveillance</p> | <p>June 4 - Utaiani, TH</p> <p>AM : Lecture on Elephants by rangers</p> <p>PM : Hiking at “Kao Hin Deang” Nature trail</p> <p>Dinner</p> <p>Observation of elephant surveillance</p> | <p>June 5 - Utaiani, TH</p> <p>AM : Huay Kha Keang Wildlife Breeding Station</p> <p>PM : Pong Chang Phueak Wildlife Observation Tower</p> <p>Dinner</p> <p>Observation of elephant surveillance</p> | <p>June 6 - Utaiani, TH</p> <p>AM : Wildlife observation behind the museum</p> <p>PM : Independent research/ interview</p> <p>Dinner</p> <p>Observation of elephant surveillance</p> | <p>June 7 - Chiang Mai, TH</p> <p>Breakfast at HKK and travel back to Chiang Mai</p> <p>Lunch along the way</p> |
| <p>June 8 - Chiang Mai, TH</p> <p>07:30AM : Leave ISDSI</p> <p>09:00-16:00 : All-day veterinary assistance training at Elephant Jungle Sanctuary</p> | <p>June 9 - Chiang Mai, TH</p> <p>07:30AM : Leave ISDSI</p> <p>09:00-16:00 : All-day veterinary assistance training at Elephant Jungle Sanctuary</p> | <p>June 10 - Chiang Mai, TH</p> <p>7AM : Leave ISDSI</p> <p>All day activities at Patara Elephant Conservation and meet with veterinarian</p> | <p>June 11 - Chiang Mai, TH</p> <p>(Room 1A)</p> <p>09:00-11:30 : Seminar</p> <p>11:30-12:00 : Visa</p> <p>12:00-13:00 : Lunch @ ISDSI</p> <p>13:00PM : Leave ISDSI</p> <p>13:30PM : Chiang Mai Zoo</p> | <p>June 12 - Chiang Mai, TH</p> <p>(Seminar Room)</p> <p>09:00-11:30 : Seminar</p> <p>11:30-12:00 : Lunch at ISDSI</p> <p>13:00-16:00 : The Thai Elephant Conservation Lampang</p> | <p>June 13 - Chiang Mai, TH</p> <p>08:15AM : Leave ISDSI</p> <p>09:00-12:00 : Maesa Elephant Camp</p> <p>PM : Independent field study/ research</p> | <p>June 14 - Chiang Mai, TH</p> <p>8AM : Leave ISDSI</p> <p>All day activities at Maetaeng Elephant Camp</p> |
| <p>June 15 - Chiang Mai, TH</p> <p>08:30 : Leave ISDSI</p> <p>09:00-12:00 : Elephants, religion and architecture</p> <p>PM : Tourism field study/ research</p> <p>Essay #1 Due</p> | <p>June 16 - Chiang Mai, TH</p> <p>Day off</p> | <p>June 17 - Chiang Mai to Laos</p> <p>06:15AM Leave ISDSI</p> <p>CNX to DMK 08:25-09:35</p> <p>DMK to LPQ 13:05-14:30</p> | <p>June 18 - LPB, Laos</p> <p>AM : Explore Luang Phra Bang</p> <p>PM : Visit wildlife rescue center Free The Bears</p> <p>Train to Vientiane</p> | <p>June 19 - Vientiane, Laos</p> <p>09:00AM : Visit National University and Vet School.</p> <p>PM : Visit Wildlife rescue organization Lao Conservation Trust for Wildlife (LCTW)</p> | <p>June 20 - Vientiane, Laos</p> <p>08AM : Travel to national park, hike, observe wildlife, intro to the park</p> | <p>June 21 - Vientiane, Laos</p> <p>Hiking, wildlife observation, other activities with the park.</p> |
| <p>June 22 - Vientiane, Laos</p> <p>AM : Wrap-up at the park, return to Vientiane</p> | <p>June 23 - Vientiane and LPB, Laos</p> <p>AM : City tour in Vientiane</p> <p>PM : Independent field study/ research</p> | <p>June 24 - Laos to Chiang Mai, TH</p> <p>VTE to DMK 13:50-15:00</p> <p>DMK to CNX 18:15-19:30</p> | <p>June 25 - Chiang Mai, TH</p> <p>All day : Presentation Prep</p> | <p>June 26 - Chiang Mai, TH</p> <p>(Seminar Room)</p> <p>AM : Final exam, Presentations, Essay #2</p> <p>PM : Free-time</p> <p>6PM : Farewell Dinner</p> | | |

Course Schedule

PLEASE NOTE: This schedule is subject to change based on partner availability, travel logistics, and other changes outside of our control. Students will need to be flexible and adaptive to the inherent challenges of remote travel and study.

COURSE LIBRARY: In addition to the readings listed in the syllabus, we will also have available with us a course library that will travel with us to Huai Kha Khaeng and be available throughout the course for your own independent research and study. This will also include wildlife guidebooks.

WILDLIFE GUIDEBOOK: In addition to guidebooks in the course library, each student will have a copy of Pearson, David L., and Les Beletsky. *Traveller's Wildlife Guides: Thailand*. Interlink Books, 2008.

MODULE 1 Introduction and Thung Yai–Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary

June 1–7 · Chiang Mai & Uthai Thani, Thailand

This module introduces the course, its field research methods, and the ecological context of Asian elephant conservation. The program begins at ISDSI's campus in Chiang Mai before traveling to the Thung Yai–Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary in Uthai Thani Province, one of Southeast Asia's most significant UNESCO World Heritage natural sites.

Observing Asian elephants in the wild is particularly challenging due to their preference for dense, forested habitats, which can be difficult to access and navigate. Their extensive home ranges and ability to move quietly through thick vegetation complicate tracking efforts. Additionally, human presence can alter their behavior, requiring researchers to adopt non-intrusive observation methods. Studying these elephants necessitates patience and a deep understanding of their ecological behaviors. While at the sanctuary, students will meet with park rangers and other stakeholders and begin observing the wild elephant population firsthand.

Focus Topics

- Elephant behavior and ecology
- Human–elephant conflict
- UNESCO World Heritage management
- Introduction to field research methods

Readings

Sukumar, R. (2003). *The Living Elephants: Evolutionary Ecology, Behavior, and Conservation*. Oxford University Press.

- Ch. 3 — Bulls, Musth, and Cows: The Elephantine Mating Game (p. 89). Estrus, musth, sexual selection and mate choice.
- Ch. 4 — Mothers, Children, and Aunts: The Social Life of Elephant Families (p. 125). Social development, communication, home range, group structure.
- Ch. 5 — Bamboos, Bark, and Bananas: The Diet of a Megaherbivore (p. 191). Diet composition, foraging ecology, nutrition and population condition.
- Olivier, R. C. D. (1978). Conservation of the Asian Elephant. *Environmental Conservation*, 5(2), 146.
- Fernando, P. & Leimgruber, P. (2011). Asian elephants and seasonally dry forests. In McShea et al. (Eds.), *The ecology and conservation of seasonally dry forests in Asia* (pp. 151–163). Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press.
- Fritz, H. (2017). Long-term field studies of elephants: understanding the ecology and conservation of a long-lived ecosystem engineer. *Journal of Mammalogy*, 98(3), 603–611.
- Sukumar, R. (2006). A brief review of the status, distribution and biology of wild Asian elephants. *International Zoo Yearbook*, 40(1), 1–8.
- The ecological role of elephants: Shaping the land and lending a hand. *Journal of African Elephants* (2026).
- Chaiyarat, R., Youngpoy, N. & Prempre, P. (2015). Wild Asian elephant population in Salakpra Wildlife Sanctuary, Thailand. *Endangered Species Research*.
- Emphandhu, D. Human dimensions in Thailand's Western Forest Complex (WEFCOM). Kasetsart University.

- Human–Elephant Conflict (overview / report).
- Guidelines for protecting crops from elephants.

Supplemental Reading

- Berzaghi, F., Bretagnolle, F., Durand-Bessart, C. & Blake, S. (2023). Megaherbivores modify forest structure and increase carbon stocks through multiple pathways. *PNAS*, 120(5), e2201832120.
- Li, L.-L., He, R.-C., Chen, C. & Quan, R.-C. (2025). Asian elephants are associated with a more robust mammalian community in tropical forests. *Journal of Animal Ecology*, 94, 1866–1878.

Schedule

Monday, June 1

Orientation; health, safety, and cultural introduction; program introduction; Thai language class; welcome dinner (6 PM)

Tuesday, June 2

Travel to Thung Yai–Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary, Uthai Thani Province (8-hour drive); dinner and check-in at the sanctuary

Wednesday, June 3

Meet with park rangers; introduction to Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary and Sueb Naka Satien Memorial House; hiking at Baan Kong Suea nature trail and world heritage exhibition hall; evening observation of elephant surveillance officers in Ban Bueng

Thursday, June 4

Lecture on elephants by rangers; hiking at Kao Hin Deang nature trail; evening observation of elephant surveillance officers in Ban Bueng

Friday, June 5

Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Breeding Station; Pong Chang Phueak Wildlife Observation Tower; evening observation of elephant surveillance officers in Ban Bueng

Saturday, June 6

Wildlife observation behind the museum; independent research and interviews; evening observation of elephant surveillance officers in Ban Bueng

Sunday, June 7

Return travel to Chiang Mai

MODULE 2 Elephant Care, Veterinary Practice, and Conservation in Northern Thailand

June 8–16 · Chiang Mai, Thailand

This module focuses on elephant care and conservation in and around Chiang Mai, exploring the wide range of approaches taken by elephant camps, sanctuaries, and conservation centers operating in the region. Students will examine initiatives centered on reproduction, rehabilitation, and welfare, as well as efforts around standards of care, certification, and ethical management of elephants under human care.

Elephant veterinary care in Northern Thailand plays a crucial role in ensuring the health and wellbeing of the region's Asian elephant population. Students will study both modern veterinary approaches and the traditional knowledge of mahouts, including herbal remedies and other indigenous practices related to elephant health and care.

Focus Topics

- Elephant health, care standards, and welfare assessment
- Captive elephant management and certification efforts
- Cultural significance of elephants in Thai traditions
- Mahout knowledge and indigenous practice
- Ecotourism models and their impacts

Readings

Sukumar, R. (2003). *The Living Elephants: Evolutionary Ecology, Behavior, and Conservation*. Oxford University Press.

- Ch. 2 — Elephants, Gods, and People: The Interrelationship of Culture and Ecology (p. 55). History of elephant culture in Asia; capture, use, and the human–elephant relationship.
- Ch. 6 — Forests, Fires, and Grasslands: The Impact of Elephants on Their Habitats (p. 223). Vegetation change, elephant–habitat dynamics, ecosystem engineering.
- Phuangkum, P., Lair, R. C. & Angkawanith, T. (2005). *Elephant care manual for mahouts and camp managers*. FAO / Forest Industry Organization, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.
- Kontogeorgopoulos, N. (2009). Wildlife tourism in semi-captive settings: A case study of elephant camps in northern Thailand. *Current Issues in Tourism*, 12(5–6), 429–449.
- Schmidt-Burbach, J., Ronfot, D. & Srisangiam, R. (2015). Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*), pig-tailed macaque (*Macaca nemestrina*) and tiger (*Panthera tigris*) populations at tourism venues in Thailand and aspects of their welfare. *PLOS ONE*, 10(9), e0139092.
- Hvistendahl, M. (2019). The human cost of elephant tourism. *The Atlantic Monthly*.
- Bansiddhi, P., et al. (2019). Management factors affecting adrenal glucocorticoid activity of tourist camp elephants in Thailand and implications for elephant welfare. *PLOS ONE*, 14(10), e0221537.
- Suter, I. (2020). Rewilding or reviewing: Conservation and the elephant-based tourism industry. *Animal Sentience*, 28(3), 1–4.
- Bansiddhi, P., Brown, J. L. & Thitaram, C. (2020). Welfare assessment and activities of captive elephants in Thailand: the epicenter of elephant tourism. *Animals*, 10, 919–937.
- In defence of elephant tourism (2021). Human+Elephant Collaborative.
- Reality check: Sustainable elephant care in Thailand.
- The Five Domains Model (2026). Zoo and Aquarium Association.

Supplemental Reading

- Phyo, E. N. (2025). Elephants in Thailand: A cultural icon and national treasure. *Wisdom Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 2(2), 29.
- Porananond, P. (2016). The monarch, the elephant, and tourism in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Chapter 5 in *Tourism and Monarchy in Southeast Asia*.
- Stewart-Cox, B. & Ritthirat, J. The Elephant Conservation Network: Kanchanaburi. ECN / Zoological Society of London.

Schedule

Monday, June 8

All-day veterinary assistance training at Elephant Jungle Sanctuary (depart ISDSI 7:30 AM)

Tuesday, June 9

All-day veterinary assistance training at Elephant Jungle Sanctuary (depart ISDSI 7:30 AM)

Wednesday, June 10

All-day activities at Patara Elephant Conservation; meeting with veterinarian (depart ISDSI 7 AM)

Thursday, June 11

Seminar (9–11:30 AM, Room 1A); visa processing (11:30 AM–noon); lunch at ISDSI; Chiang Mai Zoo (depart 1 PM)

Friday, June 12

Seminar (9–11:30 AM, Seminar Room); lunch at ISDSI; Thai Elephant Conservation Centre, Lampang (1–4 PM)

Saturday, June 13

Maesa Elephant Camp (depart ISDSI 8:15 AM, 9 AM–noon); independent field study/research (PM)

Sunday, June 14

All-day activities at Maetaeng Elephant Camp (depart ISDSI 8 AM)

Monday, June 15

Elephants in the context of Thai religion and architecture (depart ISDSI 8:30 AM, 9 AM–noon); tourism field study/research (PM) — **ESSAY #1 DUE**

Tuesday, June 16

Day off

MODULE 3 Elephant Conservation in Laos: Luang Prabang, Vientiane, and Nam Pouy Protected Area

June 17–24 · Luang Prabang & Vientiane, Laos

This module travels to Laos to study the cultural and ecological context of elephant conservation in a setting that differs from Thailand in important ways. While strong cultural and historical links connect Northern Thailand and Laos, the two countries diverge significantly in terms of governance structures, levels of economic development, and the specific pressures facing elephants and local ecosystems. Students will examine these differences directly through site visits, institutional partnerships, and fieldwork.

The module begins in Luang Prabang, a UNESCO World Heritage site, before moving to Vientiane, where students will engage with national conservation institutions and wildlife rescue organizations. The module then travels to the Nam Pouy Protected Area, where students will participate in field research including hiking, wildlife observation, camera trapping, and habitat assessment.

Focus Topics

- Governance and conservation in Lao PDR
- Wildlife rescue and rehabilitation
- Field research methodologies
- Wild elephant populations and habitat
- Community engagement and sustainable livelihoods
- Comparative Thai–Lao conservation approaches

Readings

Sukumar, R. (2003). *The Living Elephants: Evolutionary Ecology, Behavior, and Conservation*. Oxford University Press.

- Ch. 7 — Birth, Death, and Chance: The Dynamics of Elephant Populations (p. 255). Demographic variables, life history, population modeling and viability.
- Ch. 8 — Coconuts, Corn, and Carvings: The Conflict between Elephants and People (p. 298). Crop raiding, human fatalities, habitat manipulation, conflict mitigation.
- Ch. 9 — Science, Politics, and Pragmatism: Conserving the Elephant Populations (p. 352). Minimum viable populations, managing conflict, controlling the ivory trade, conservation policy.
- Berkmüller, K., Evans, T., Timmins, R. & Vongphet, V. (1995). Recent advances in nature conservation in the Lao PDR. *Oryx*, 29(4), 253–260.
- Norrachack, B. (2002). The care and management of domesticated Asian elephants in Lao PDR. In Baker & Kashio (Eds.), *Giants on Our Hands* (pp. 172–180). FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.
- Clements, H. S., et al. (2010). Ecotourism and biodiversity conservation. *Conservation Biology*, 24(3), 621–629.
- Laíné, N. (2018). Asian elephant conservation: Too elephantocentric? Towards a biocultural approach of conservation. *Asian Bioethics Review*, 10(3), 279–293.
- Duffillot, S. (2019). Re: Asian elephant conservation — Too elephantocentric? *Asian Bioethics Review*, pp. 133–139.
- Goswami, V. R., Madhusudan, M. D. & Sukumar, R. (2021). Living with elephants: Evidence-based planning to conserve wild populations across varied land use regimes. *Frontiers in Conservation Science*, 2, 682590.
- Chanthasene, S., et al. (2022). Willingness to pay for conservation of the Asian elephant in Nakai Nam Theun National Protected Area in Laos. *Open Journal of Business and Management*, 10(3), 1327–1343.

Schedule

Wednesday, June 17

Flights Chiang Mai → Bangkok (DMK) → Luang Prabang (depart ISDSI 6:15 AM; arrive LPQ 2:30 PM)

Thursday, June 18

Explore Luang Prabang (AM); visit Free The Bears wildlife rescue centre (PM); train to Vientiane

Friday, June 19

Visit National University and Veterinary School (9 AM); visit Lao Conservation Trust for Wildlife (LCTW) (PM)

Saturday, June 20

Travel to Nam Pouy Protected Area; Hiking and wildlife observation; introduction to the park

Sunday, June 21

Hiking and wildlife observation; additional park activities

Monday, June 22

Wrap-up at the park; return to Vientiane

Tuesday, June 23

Vientiane city tour (AM); independent field study/research (PM)

Wednesday, June 24

Flight Vientiane (VTE) → Bangkok (DMK) → Chiang Mai (depart 1:50 PM; arrive CNX 7:30 PM)

MODULE 4 Synthesis and Final Presentations

June 25–26 · Chiang Mai, Thailand

The final module returns to Chiang Mai for synthesis and presentation of student research. Students will dedicate the penultimate day to preparing their Independent Field Research Project presentations before presenting their findings to the full group on the final day of the course. All written deliverables are due at 5 PM on June 25.

Focus Topics

- Synthesis of field research findings
- Analytical depth and communication of research
- Peer learning and course reflection

Schedule

Thursday, June 25

IFRP presentation preparation (all day)

Friday, June 26

Final exam and presentations (AM, Seminar Room)

ESSAY #2 DUE

HAND IN JOURNALS

Afternoon free

Final dinner at 6 PM

Elephant Veterinary Assistant Training Details

This is a formal training program under the supervision of the Chiang Mai University Faculty of Veterinary Science. Students will be working directly with elephants under the supervision of CMU veterinary professors, and following appropriate standards of care and conduct for contact with elephants.

Monday, 8 June 2026

Note: 2 elephants will be used (1 per group) for demonstration and hands-on practice in the Basic Elephant Physical Examination session under the supervision of a Chiang Mai University Veterinary Professor.

| Time | Activity |
|---------------|---|
| 09:00 – 09:15 | Welcome and facility introduction by the resident veterinarian of Elephant Jungle Sanctuary |
| 09:15 – 09:30 | Training overview and briefing by Asst. Prof. Dr. Pakkanuch Bansit (DVM) |
| 09:30 – 10:30 | Lecture: Introduction to Elephant Biology and Behavior by Prof. Dr. Chatchote Thitaram (DVM) |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | Coffee break |
| 10:45 – 12:00 | Lecture: Basic Elephant Physical Examination by Dr. Pradjakrit Maitawan (DVM) |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | Lunch break |
| 13:00 – 15:00 | Group practical session: Basic Elephant Physical Examination Group 1: Dr. Warut Wongkalasin (DVM) & Ms. Rawiwan Lek-nga-am-ek Group 2: Dr. Pradjakrit Maitawan (DVM) & Mr. Thanakrit Chaimang |
| 15:00 – 15:15 | Coffee break |
| 15:15 – 15:30 | Group meeting to prepare examination result presentations |
| 15:30 – 16:00 | Presentation of physical examination results and group discussion |

Tuesday, 9 June 2026

Note: 2 elephants will be used (1 per group) for demonstration and hands-on practice in the Basic Elephant First Aid session under the supervision of a Chiang Mai University Veterinary Professor.

| Time | Activity |
|---------------|---|
| 09:00 – 10:00 | Lecture: Important Diseases and Disorders in Elephants by Asst. Prof. Dr. Pakkanuch Bansit (DVM) |
| 10:00 – 10:15 | Coffee break |
| 10:15 – 11:15 | Lecture: Basic Elephant First Aid by Dr. Pawinee Kulnanant (DVM) |
| 11:15 – 12:00 | Demonstration: Basic Elephant First Aid Kit by Dr. Pawinee Kulnanant (DVM) & Ms. Rawiwan Lek-nga-am-ek |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | Lunch break |
| 13:00 – 15:00 | Group practical session: Basic Elephant First Aid Covering: medication administration, eye cleaning, and wound care Group 1: Dr. Warut Wongkalasin (DVM) & Ms. Rawiwan Lek-nga-am-ek Group 2: Dr. Pradjakrit Maitawan (DVM) & Mr. Thanakrit Chaimang |
| 15:00 – 15:15 | Coffee break |
| 15:15 – 15:30 | Group meeting to prepare first aid presentations |
| 15:30 – 16:00 | Presentation of basic elephant first aid and group discussion |

Course Library Bibliography

ECOLOGY, BIOLOGY & NATURAL HISTORY

Fowler, Murray E., and Susan K. Mikota. *Biology, Medicine, and Surgery of Elephants*. Ames, IA: Blackwell Publishing, 2006.

Garstang, Michael. *Elephant Sense and Sensibility: Behavior and Cognition*. Amsterdam: Elsevier/Academic Press, 2015.

CAPTIVE ELEPHANTS, MAHOUTS & WORKING ELEPHANTS

Downer, Ann. *Elephant Talk: The Surprising Science of Elephant Communication*. Minneapolis: Twenty-First Century Books, 2011.

Kurt, Fred, and Marion E. Garai. *The Asian Elephant in Captivity: A Field Study*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press / Foundation Books, 2006.

Lair, Richard C. *Gone Astray: The Care and Management of the Asian Elephant in Domesticity*. Bangkok: FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, 1997.

Phuangkum, Preecha, Richard C. Lair, and Taweepoke Angkawanith. *Elephant Care Manual for Mahouts and Camp Managers*. Bangkok: FAO / Thai Elephant Conservation Center, 2005.

Shell, Jacob. *Giants of the Monsoon Forest: Living and Working with Elephants*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2019.

Thitaram, Chatchote, ed. *Manual of Welfare Management for Asian Elephants in the Thailand Tourism Industry*. Chiang Mai: Center of Excellence in Elephant and Wildlife Research, Chiang Mai University, 2023.

THAI ELEPHANTS: HISTORY, CULTURE & SOCIETY

Ringis, Rita. *Elephants of Thailand in Myth, Art, and Reality*. Kuala Lumpur: Oxford University Press, 1996.

Schliesinger, Joachim. *Elephants in Thailand, Vol. 1: Mahouts and Their Cultures Today*. Bangkok: White Lotus Press, 2010.

Trautmann, Thomas R. *Elephants and Kings: An Environmental History*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015.

Course Policies

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to be on time and attend all classes. If you are ill or otherwise need to miss a class, please inform your instructor or teaching assistant.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in ISDSI courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in disciplinary action.

Scholastic Dishonesty

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing an academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis. Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" or "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

Grading Standards

| Letter grade | Score or percentage | Description |
|--------------|---------------------|---|
| A | 93–100 | Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements. |
| A- | 90–92 | Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements. |
| B+ | 87–89 | Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements. |
| B | 83–86 | Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements. |
| B- | 80–82 | Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect. |
| C+ | 77–79 | Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect. |
| C | 73–76 | Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect. |
| C- | 70-72 | Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements. |
| D+ | 67-69 | Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements. |
| D | 60-66 | Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements. |
| F | 0-59 | Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an Incomplete. |