

CCST9054

## War, Peace, and the Natural World

### Study Load

Activities	Number of hours
Lectures	24
Tutorials	8
Fieldwork / Visits	4
Reading / Self-study	40
Assessment: Creation of Wikipedia article	15
Assessment: Video production	20
Assessment: Peer-review of assignments	5
Assessment: Writing assignment	15
Total:	131

### Course Learning Outcomes

1. Identify and describe historical environmental impacts as a result of military actions, violent conflict and war.
2. Demonstrate understanding of some of the fundamental concepts of conservation biology.
3. Demonstrate inherent link between war tactics and environmental damage.
4. Apply the knowledge from above to propose policies that militaries could initiate to reduce their ecological footprint.
5. Present the history of war through the perspective of ecology in digital and oral formats that are suitable for the wider public.

### Assessment Tasks

Assessment Method	Weighting
Video production	45
Educational display	30
In-class assessments	15
Peer evaluation	10

### Course Content and Topics

The course will cover the fundamental concepts of conservation biology through the context of war and military actions. Wars have inherently led to outright destruction of native habitat, but have also caused serious pollution, introduced exotic species, led to increased poaching and fishing and even contributed significantly to global climate change. However, on the other end of the spectrum wars have sometimes – often inadvertently – led to the conservation of large areas of land and protection of population from poaching and fishing.

The topics of the course will be as follows:

- “Scorched Earth” tactics and their legacy throughout history
- WWII nuclear testing on South Pacific coral reefs
- Wetlands loss and restoration in Iraq

- Land disputes in the South China Sea, dredging territory for military bases
- Japanese occupation of South Pacific islands and the local extinction of sea cucumbers
- The B-52 Bomber and the invasive Brown Tree Snakes of Guam (defoliation)
- The Mongol conquest: disease, population declines and climate change
- Dioxin use in the Vietnam War and a century of consequences
- Munitions testing in Vieques Island, Puerto Rico: radioactivity and persistent pollutants
- African conflicts in Congo and the conservation of Mountain Gorillas
- The Korean Peninsula DMZ and the most pristine forests in Asia
- US military bases as islands of biodiversity
- Somali Pirates and the recovery of East African Fisheries