

**VME 198 Thailand: Wildlife, Conservation and  
Veterinary Medicine Internship Reflection**

Summer Internship in Thailand

**Course Syllabus**

June 28 to August 1, 2020

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**Course Overview:**

**Veterinary Medicine and Epidemiology (VME) 198: Wildlife, Conservation, and Veterinary Medicine Internship Reflection (2 Units)**

As a student in VME 198, you will spend time each week reflecting on your work as an intern in Thailand and sharing your experiences. Through this internship, you will learn, and apply real-world animal related skills on an international level, and throughout the process, you will complete several required assignments to fulfil the course requirement. The vast majority of the work and value of this course, however, will come in the form of the international, intercultural, interpersonal, and unique animal experiences you have throughout your time in Thailand.

**NOTE:** You will take VME 198 in conjunction with **Education Abroad (EAP) 192 Internship**. EAP 192 is a 6-unit course for which you will intern approximately 35-40 hours per week at your host company in Thailand. You will be able to apply for transcript notation through the UC Davis Internship and Career Center for the EAP 192 course.

This syllabus outlines the expectations for VME 198 and provides the information that is necessary to successfully complete this two-unit course.

**Course Goals**

The main goals of the internship course (EAP 192) are to gain hands-on international experience in veterinary and elephant management related activities, and to acquire intercultural skills that will allow you to navigate an increasingly interconnected world. To complement these goals, the main goals of this 2-unit course (VME 198) are:

- To encourage you to reflect on your internship experiences through remote instruction while on location.
- To share your internship experiences with other registered students in the EAP 192 course.
- To encourage you to reflect on how your internship experiences impact your desire to pursue a career in animal or veterinary related fields.

Throughout your time abroad, you will work with your instructor via online interactions to achieve these goals and to make your international experiences as valuable as possible.

## Course Credit & Grading

VME 198 will be taken for a Pass/No Pass grade. To pass this course, you must **complete the discussion post assignment (Week 1) and all of the writing assignments (Weeks 2-4)** and post them on Canvas by the due date. The course progression table indicates due dates and further details for these assignments. Assignments will be uploaded through the Canvas portal. Most of the written assignments should be a minimum of 300 words (about one-page).

Internet access and services will be very limited to absent in Thailand. It is your responsibility to complete the assignments and discussion posts on time and meet deadlines. Please make sure you go to the course canvas page and download all of the reading materials, writing assignments and assigned topics for discussion postings before you leave for Thailand in order to ensure that you will have all of the assigned materials. The due dates for your assignments are based on when you will have internet access.

**Grading:** To earn a **passing grade** for VME 198 the following will be required:

1. You must **complete the discussion post assignment for Week 1.**
2. You must **complete all of the writing assignments (Weeks 2-4).**

## Required Course Readings

The readings for this course are all available online and are listed in the Course Progression below under the *Reading Assignments* section. These readings come from a variety of sources and focus on topics ranging from intercultural communication to tips for succeeding in an internship. Please ensure that you download all of the reading materials (available on Canvas under files; PDFs) and assignments before you depart for Australia. These readings will provide practical insight that may prove useful in your summertime workplace.

## Course Progression

The course progression on the following pages lists all reading and writing assignments for this course. Note that all assignments are due each week by Sunday at 10:00 pm *in Thailand*.

If you have any questions or concerns about the information listed in this course progression, please do not hesitate to email me: [latell@ucdavis.edu](mailto:latell@ucdavis.edu).

Week	Reading Assignments	Discussion Posts & Assignments
Week 1	<p><b>Pre-Veterinary Experience: How much is enough?</b></p> <p><b>Please Read:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>How much pre-veterinary experience is enough?</i>  <a href="https://news.vin.com/vinnews.aspx?articleId=45798">https://news.vin.com/vinnews.aspx?articleId=45798</a></li> </ol> <p><b>Tips for a successful internship</b></p> <p><b>Please Read:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. <i>Unconventional tips for pre-veterinary students</i>  <a href="http://www.drothmandvm.com/pre-vets/ten-unconventional-tips-for-pre-vet-students">http://www.drothmandvm.com/pre-vets/ten-unconventional-tips-for-pre-vet-students</a></li> <li>3. <i>Tips for Internship Success</i>  <a href="https://career.berkeley.edu/Internships/IntTips">https://career.berkeley.edu/Internships/IntTips</a></li> <li>4. <i>Top 10 Tips to Surviving an Internship Abroad</i>  <a href="http://www.vergemagazine.com/work-abroad/blogs/782-top-10-tips-to-surviving-an-internship-abroad.html">http://www.vergemagazine.com/work-abroad/blogs/782-top-10-tips-to-surviving-an-internship-abroad.html</a></li> </ol> <p><b>Please Read:</b></p> <p><b>Elephant Basics</b></p> <p><b>Please read:</b></p> <p><i>Elephant Complete Husbandry Resource Guide 1<sup>st</sup> Edition (PDF posted on Canvas):</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Natural History Section</i></li> <li>2. <i>Management Section</i></li> <li>3. <i>Behavior Section</i></li> </ol>	<p><b>Week 1: Discussion Posts</b> by 10:00 p.m. (Thailand time) on <b>Sunday, Week 1</b> (July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discussion Post 1: A very concise recap of your first week in the internship (50-word minimum)</li> <li>2. Discussion Post 2: A brief description of your most interesting/unusual interaction of the week (25-word minimum)</li> </ol>

Week	Reading Assignments	Discussion Posts & Assignments
Week 2	<p><b>Elephant Husbandry, Training and Enrichment</b></p> <p><i>Please read:</i></p> <p><i>Elephant Complete Husbandry Resource Guide 1<sup>st</sup> Edition (PDF posted on Canvas):</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Husbandry Section</li> <li>2. Training Section</li> <li>3. Environmental Enrichment Section</li> <li>4. Behavior Ethogram Section</li> </ol>	<p><b>Week 2: Reflection Writing Assignment</b> due by 10:00 p.m. (Thailand time) on <b>Sunday, Week 2</b> (July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020)</p> <p><i>Animal related work and how it relates to my desire to be a veterinarian or in an animal science related field. 300 word minimum</i></p>
Week 3	<p><b>Interpersonal Skills</b></p> <p><i>Please Read:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Essential skills and abilities for veterinarians:</i>  <a href="https://www.vet.cornell.edu/education/doctor-veterinary-medicine/curriculum/essential-skills-and-abilities">https://www.vet.cornell.edu/education/doctor-veterinary-medicine/curriculum/essential-skills-and-abilities</a> </li> <li>2. <i>The importance of interpersonal skills:</i>  <a href="https://www.scilvet.ca/company/articles/the-importance-of-interpersonal-skills/">https://www.scilvet.ca/company/articles/the-importance-of-interpersonal-skills/</a> </li> <li>3. <i>Intercultural Communication in the Global Workplace:</i>  <a href="http://www.e-revistas.uji.es/index.php/clar/article/viewFile/1342/1185">http://www.e-revistas.uji.es/index.php/clar/article/viewFile/1342/1185</a> </li> <li>4. <i>Communicating Across Cultures:</i>  <a href="https://www.asme.org/engineering-topics/articles/business-communication/communicating-across-cultures">https://www.asme.org/engineering-topics/articles/business-communication/communicating-across-cultures</a> </li> </ol>	<p><b>Week 3: Reflection Writing Assignment</b> due by 10:00 p.m. (Thailand time) on <b>Sunday, Week 3</b> (July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020)</p> <p><i>Interpersonal Communication in Animal Science or Veterinary Related Careers. 300 word minimum</i></p>
Week 4		<p><b>Week 4: Reflection Writing Assignment</b> due by 10:00 p.m.</p>

Week	Reading Assignments	Discussion Posts & Assignments
	<p><b>Keeping Elephants in Captivity (US Focused):</b></p> <p><b>Please read:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Association of Zoos and Aquariums Postings:</i>  <a href="https://www.aza.org/elephant-faq/">https://www.aza.org/elephant-faq/</a>   <a href="https://www.aza.org/elephants-and-aza-accreditation">https://www.aza.org/elephants-and-aza-accreditation</a></li> <li>2. <i>National Geographic Elephants in Captivity</i>   <a href="https://blog.nationalgeographic.org/2013/05/05/elephants-in-captivity-a-perspective-from-former-aza-directorwilliam-conway-chair-of-conservation-science/">https://blog.nationalgeographic.org/2013/05/05/elephants-in-captivity-a-perspective-from-former-aza-directorwilliam-conway-chair-of-conservation-science/</a></li> <li>3. <i>American Veterinary Medical Association Elephant Training:</i>   <a href="https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/LiteratureReviews/Pages/Elephant-Training-Backgrounder.aspx">https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/LiteratureReviews/Pages/Elephant-Training-Backgrounder.aspx</a></li> </ol> <p><b>Global Exposure: Changes in Perspectives</b></p> <p><b>Please Read:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Innocents Abroad: How Travel Changed my Perspective and Politics</i>   <a href="https://www.ricksteves.com/about-rick/innocents-abroad-how-travel-changed-my-perspective-and-politics">https://www.ricksteves.com/about-rick/innocents-abroad-how-travel-changed-my-perspective-and-politics</a></li> </ol>	<p>(Thailand time) on <b>Sunday, Week 4</b> (July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020)</p> <p><i>Summary of your internship including new animal related experience you have gained. Optional: Include the most notable impact that your travel to Thailand has had on you either personally or from a future career perspective.</i></p>

**Acknowledgement:** This syllabus structure was based on a syllabus and material developed by Dr. Ken Andersen from the University Writing Program for a similar internship abroad course.