

ANT 312: NON-HUMAN PRIMATES
Fall 2017, Tues/Thurs 11-12:15 PM, Reese Phifer 344

Dr. Christopher Lynn

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Prerequisites: ANT 100 or ANT 270 or permission of instructor.

Course Description: This course is an introductory survey of the world's living non-human primates. The focus is on the taxonomy, anatomy, behavior, ecology, and cognition of our closest living relatives. The course is intended as a starting point for further coursework in primate behavior and a survey course for non-science students.

Required Texts:

NYSTROM / LIFE OF THE PRIMATES (**Required**)

SAPOLSKY / PRIMATE'S MEMOIR (**Required**)

Other Course Materials: Additional readings and other material will be posted on Blackboard. Be sure your Blackboard account is set up correctly so that you received messages relevant to the course in your email inbox.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of the semester, you should be able to

- Demonstrate familiarity with the diversity of living primates
- Explain the relevance of primate studies to understanding human evolution
- Outline the basic differences between apes and monkeys and between Old World and New World primates
- Take an educated position on primate conservation efforts active in the world
- Communicate with classmates and the public about current primate research
- Collect ethological data and write an organized, coherent ethological report

OUTLINE OF TOPICS (Subject to change):

INTRODUCTION

WEEK 0

Aug. 24: Administrative material, assign primate biographies, and discuss course objectives
READ: Nystrom chapter 1, Sapolsky chapter 1

SECTION 1

WEEK 1

Aug. 29: Introduction to primates: "*Social Climbers*" movie (viewing guide on Blackboard)

READ: Sussman (Blackboard), Sapolsky chs 2-3

DUE: Quiz 1

Aug 31: History of primatology

READ: Riley, Wolfe, & Fuentes (Blackboard), Sapolsky ch 4

DUE: Quiz 2-3

WEEK 2

Sept 5: Primates in human thought through the ages/*Primate biography #1*

READ: Cormier 2017 (Blackboard), Sapolsky ch 5

DUE: Quiz 4

Sept 7: Primates in laboratory research/*Primate biography #2*

READ: "Primates in the Laboratory/Principles of Social Organization" (Blackboard), Sap ch 6

DUE: Quiz 5

PRIMATE STUDIES

WEEK 3

Sept 12: Primates in lab research (cont'd): *Dr. Amanda Dettmer (tentative)*

READ: Dettmer et al. 2012 (Blackboard), Sap ch 7

DUE: Quiz 6

Sept 14: Old World Monkeys: *Baboon Tales* movie (viewing guide available)

READ: Jablonski ch 2 "History" from *Skin: A Natural History* (Blackboard)

Sept 15: Nina Jablonski ALLELE lecture (extra credit opportunity*), Biology building auditorium (rm 127), 7:30PM

**To get up to 5 extra credit points on next exam, get a photo/selfie with speaker and submit with half-page summary of talk/event. Due within one week of event.*

WEEK 4

Sept 19: Two seminal primate studies

READ: Goodall 1972, Schaller 1972 (Blackboard)

Sept 21: Methods in primatology/*Primate biography #3*

READ: "Behavioral Data Collection in Primate Field Studies" (Blackboard), Sap ch 8

DUE: Quiz 7

WEEK 5

Sept 26: TEST 1 (Review ALL readings, lectures, viewing guides, quizzes)

SECTION 2

PRIMATE EVOLUTIONARY ECOLOGY

Sept 28: Primate biogeography
READ: Nystrom ch 3, Sap ch 9
DUE: Quiz 8

WEEK 6

Oct 3: Zoo primatology: *Dr. Katie Smith*
READ: Smith et al. 2014 (Blackboard), Sap ch 10
DUE: Quiz 9

Oct 5: Issues in biogeography/*Primate biography #4*
READ: [Korstjens et al 2010](#) (Blackboard), Sap ch 11
DUE: Quiz 10

WEEK 7

Oct 10: Primate bodies
READ: Nys ch 4, Sap ch 12
DUE: Quiz 11

Oct 12: Primate evolution/*Primate biography #5*
READ: Nys ch 5, Sap ch 13
DUE: Quiz 12

ALLELE TALK*: *Dr. Kristi Curry Rogers, 7:30PM, see website for location*

Oct 14 (SATURDAY): BIRMINGHAM ZOO FIELD TRIP (Tentative)

WEEK 8

Oct 17: *A Lemur's Tale* movie
READ: Nys ch 5, Sap 14
DUE: Quiz 13

Oct 19: Primate origins/*Primate biography #6*
READ: Beard 2008 (Blackboard), Sap ch 15
DUE: Quiz 14

WEEK 9

Oct 24: NWM-OWM Origins/*Primate biography #7*
READ: Sap ch 16-17
DUE: Quiz 15

Oct 26: FALL BREAK

WEEK 10

Oct 31: TEST 2 (Review Section 2 lectures, readings, quizzes, viewing guides, Primate Bios)

SECTION 3

PRIMATE DISTRIBUTION AND SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Nov 2: Primate ecology

READ: Nys ch 6, Sap ch 18

DUE: Quiz 16-17

WEEK 11

Nov 7: Primate social organization/*Primate biography #8*

READ: Nys ch 7, Sap chaps 19-20

DUE: Quiz 18

Nov 9: New World monkeys: *Face in the Forest* movie

READ: Nys ch 8, Sap ch 21

DUE: Quiz 19-20

ALLELE EVENT*: Speaking Evolution, 7:30PM, see website for location

WEEK 12

Nov 14: Kinds of Primate communication/*Primate biography #9*

READ: Sap chaps 22-23

DUE: Quiz 21

Nov 16: *Moju the Snow Monkey* movie

READ: Nys ch 9, Sap ch 24

DUE: Quiz 22-23

WEEK 13

Nov 21: Ape language studies/*Primate biography #10*

READ: Nys ch 10, Sap chs 25-26

DUE: Quiz 24

Nov 23: HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

WEEK 14

Nov 28: Great apes: *Monkey in the Mirror* movie

READ: Nys ch 11, Sap chaps 27

DUE: Quiz 25-26

Nov 30: Primate conservation and recap

READ: Sap ch 28-29

DUE: Quiz 27, ZOO REPORT

TOPICS IN PRIMATOLOGY

WEEK 15

Dec 5: Evolutionary medicine—*Stress* movie

READ: Huffman 2011 (Blackboard)

DUE: Quiz 28-29

Dec 7: TEST 3 (Review Section 3 lectures, readings, viewing guides, Primate Bios)

Fri. Dec 15, 8-10:30 AM: FINAL EXAM (Cumulative from Tests 1-3)**

**See below for exemptions

EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS

“Primate Biography”: Everyone will do one in-class "Primate Biography" presentation and a written summary on a specific primate species. You will be assigned taxonomic categories (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_primates for list of categories and species in each) and will be allowed to choose a primate from within the category.

Primate biographies are about individuals, so the goal is to locate a living individual within one's chosen species to focus on in the presentation and summary. The easiest way to find individuals is to search zoo websites. Secondly, primatologists often give individuals names to identify them in their field notes and writing, and you will find lots of examples of individuals in the scholarly literature and documentary films. This will be easy for well-known species but more difficult for those that are rare and less popular. I challenge you to take the high road and research lesser known species. Everyone knows Kanzi the bonobo, for instance, but how many know the names of the Emperor Tamarins at the Cincinnati Zoo (Hint: if you can't find biographical information readily on zoo website, *email the zookeepers*. They often share information with students. Be sure to cite them as sources!).

In addition to biographical information (no more than a paragraph is necessary, but more is welcome), the summary should include the following information:

1. Species common and scientific name
2. Why you chose this species and what is of interest about it
3. Taxonomic classification
4. Habitat (where does it live, what is its ecosystem like)
5. Locomotor style
6. Preferred food
7. Reproductive and social patterns
8. History with humans (how long have humans known about it, who/when discovered, treatment by/of humans)
9. Endangered status
10. Zoos where we can see one
11. Photos of the species

A written summary should be prepared to distribute to the class AND submit electronically (via Blackboard). If your sources are on the internet, use hyperlinks to connect to them for proper attribution and so others can learn more. If your sources are print, cite and reference them (or cite and link to the source electronically).

Your in-class presentation need not be redundant. Instead, the objective of the in-class presentation is to enable your classmates to experientially integrate the material they have read. What does that mean? Plan something fun that is related to your species that will get us out of our seats and be memorable. I give a lot of latitude for such activities. For instance, in past years students have brought in food that a primate group normally eats to talk about ecology and dentition. We have also acted out scenes in primate social groups or feeding behavior. You will get points here for being creative! However, we have a lot going on, so plan your entire presentation to take about 15-20 minutes.

The following rubric will be used to evaluate Primate Biographies:

	Absent=0 Poor=1 Fair=2 Good=3
Summary	
Biographical info of an individual	
Thorough species information	
Sourced properly and laid out correctly	
Presentation	
Explained summary (without reading it aloud)	
Engaging activity	
Creative presentation	
TOTAL	18 points possible

Quizzes: There is a short quiz on Blackboard for every assigned chapter in the Sapolsky book. This book is a light, fun read about baboons and the logistics of being a primatologist and should be easy to keep up with. The course is divided into 3 sections, which is reflected on the Blackboard course home page. In each section folder is another folder containing quizzes for that section. Upon finishing the Sapolsky chapter(s) for each date, complete the online quiz. There is only one question per chapter, but the quiz must be completed in one sitting and is only available for 30 minutes once begun. The quiz for each assigned reading is due by the next class. Each question is worth 4 points. There are 29 quizzes (one per chapter). The four lowest quiz grades will be dropped at the end of the semester. Quizzes completed after their due date will only receive half credit. Additionally, quiz questions may appear on tests and the final exam.

Tests/Exam: There are three non-cumulative tests and a cumulative final exam. *Exemption:* If you have an A in the course after test 3, you do not need to take the final exam and will receive an A. If you have a B after test 3 and have missed fewer than three classes or a C and have missed 0 classes, you can choose to skip the final and keep your grade as stands.

Tests/Exam will consist of multiple-choice questions. The tests will cover material presented in lectures, assigned readings, quizzes, Primate Biographies, and films. You must take tests on the scheduled dates. Make-ups will not be possible after the test has been given unless you have an extraordinarily good excuse for missing the test. If you know in advance that you will miss an test, a makeup can be arranged for a time prior to the scheduled in-class test—but you must give me plenty of notice (i.e., several days, at least).

Ethology (Zoo) Report: You will write a detailed scientific report of the primates at the Birmingham Zoo. The primary criteria for grading zoo reports are the completeness, quality, and detail of your descriptions and observations (can I visualize the animals and activities you are talking about?) and how well you followed the instructions; clarity of writing, use of formal English grammar, and correct spelling are expected. Neatness and appearance count, so that typing the report and organizing the material both help your grade, but photos and other inclusions (whether taken by you or a website) are optional and add very few points. Full, detailed instructions are available on Blackboard.

Following is the rubric that will be used to evaluate your report:

METRICS	3=good 2=fair 1=poor 0=unacceptable
Part I (described all species)	
Part II (feeding & locomotion)	
Part III (focal studies)	
Part IV (scan studies)	
Coherence (internal logic, organization, grammar, punctuation, spelling, prose style)	
TOTAL	15 points possible

Course Grading Policy: This course uses the A-F grade system. Your final grade is determined by the percentage you earn out of 100%.

Test 1 = 20%

Test 2 = 20%

Test 3 = 20%

Final Exam = 10%

Participation (Primate Biography, attendance, misc. assignments) = 15%

Ethology (Zoo) Report = 15%

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Attendance is required and will be monitored. More than 3 unexcused absences will result in your course grade being lowered by 5 course percentage points. It will be lowered by 5

additional percentage points for every additional absence thereafter. That means 4 absences will cost you a whole letter grade; 10 absences will result in a failing grade for the course.

Social Media: There is a closed Facebook group for this course at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ANT312/>. Please join us. It is an ongoing forum for exchanging information about items in the news, pop culture, and other events (or your dirty little secrets, if you choose to expose them, I suppose). This is not required, but I have found it works better than Blackboard forums designed for the same purpose.

Also, “like” the UA Department of Anthropology (<https://www.facebook.com/UAAnthroDept/>) and the ALLELE series (<https://www.facebook.com/ALLELEseries/>) on Faceook so that we can keep in touch with you and you can stay informed about our events and activities.

I also use Twitter as a way to share information during and between classes. We use hashtag #ant312. You can follow me @Chris_Ly and the department @BamaAnthro (Hint: During in-class films and other events, I am partial to tweeting notes for material I may include on exams).

***HOWEVER**, it is extremely rude to be constantly texting or using your smartphone if you are not doing it for class. Therefore, if I see you on your device during class, I will be looking for course-relevant tweets. If you need to use your devices for anything but coursework, take it into the hallway, or I will ask you to do so. I will warn you once if I see you using social media during class except to tweet notes about the class using the #ant312 hashtag. After the first warning, I will ask you to leave class and count you as absent that session.*

Notification of Changes: I will make every effort to follow the guidelines of this syllabus as listed; however, the instructor reserves the right to amend this document as the need arises. In such instances, the instructor will notify students in class or via email and will endeavor to provide reasonable time for students to adjust to any changes.

Statement on Academic Misconduct: Students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to the official [Code of Academic Conduct](#) provided in the Online Catalog.

The [UAct website](#) provides an overview of The University's expectations regarding respect and civility.

Statement on Disability Accommodations: Contact the [Office of Disability Services \(ODS\)](#) as detailed in the Online Catalog.

Severe Weather Protocol: Please see the latest [Severe Weather Guidelines](#) in the Online Catalog.

POLICY ON MISSED EXAMS AND COURSEWORK

Attendance: If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to contact a classmate to get notes from a particular lecture. Lectures may be recorded and available in a Tegrity folder on Blackboard,

but I can neither guarantee the quality of these recordings nor meet with you to clarify a whole lecture because of an absence. It behooves you to use your primate social faculties to clarify material that you may not have understood during class or to help you clarify material you missed in conjunction with classmates' shared notes. Remember, you will be penalized if you miss more than 3 lectures, so do not rely on this method.

Exams: If you miss an exam due to legitimate circumstances beyond your control, you may make it up if arrangements are made with me in a timely fashion (i.e., you should be able to get notice to me by the next day or within 3 under extreme circumstances). Legitimate circumstances may include illness sufficient to merit a visit to the Student Health Center (in which case, be prepared to provide proof of visit) or death or illness in the family. Under the latter circumstances, I expect you will be notifying other instructors of your absence in their classes too, which I may elect to verify.

Quizzes: Quizzes completed after due dates will receive a maximum of half credit. All quizzes are available in advance of their due dates, so no exceptions or make-ups will be allowed for missed quizzes. The four lowest quiz grades will be dropped, which may include zeros.

Zoo Report: You must conduct the zoo report. You have all semester to find the time to do this project. Lack of transportation is not a suitable excuse. A good idea would be to carpool with classmates. Alternatively, if you find yourself on vacation in another city with a good primate exhibit, you may conduct your zoo report there with prior approval. There are good primate facilities at zoos in Atlanta, Nashville, Memphis, New Orleans, and many other nearby cities (even Montgomery has a decent one) that may interest you.