

# ANT 312: NON-HUMAN PRIMATES

Fall 2022, Mon/Wed 3:30-4:45 PM, Shelby 2106

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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:

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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

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- 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. 17: Administrative material and discuss course objectives  
READ/WATCH: Sapolsky chapter 1-2, Watch Stress: Portrait of a Killer  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZXc2iFRmNw>)

#### **WEEK 1**

Aug. 22: Introduction to primates: "*Social Climbers*" movie (viewing guide on Blackboard)  
READ: Nystrom 1, Sapolsky chs 3

Aug 24: Primate Classification  
READ: Nystrom 2, Sapolsky ch 4

#### **WEEK 2**

Aug 29: Primate Biogeography  
READ: Nystrom 3, Sapolsky ch 5

Aug 31: Primate Body  
READ: Nystrom 4, Sap ch 6

#### **WEEK 3**

Sept 5: LABOR DAY NO CLASS

Sept 7: Primate Evolution  
READ: Nystrom 5, Sap ch 7

#### **WEEK 4**

Sept 12: Primate Ecology  
READ: Nystrom 6, Sap 8

Sept 14: Social Organization  
READ: Nystrom 7, Sap 9

#### **WEEK 5**

Sept 19: Social Relationships  
READ: Nystrom 8, Sap ch 10

Sept 21: Primate Communication  
READ: Nystrom ch 9, Sap ch 11

## WEEK 6

Sept 26: Primate Brains and Behavioral Complexity

READ: Nystrom 10, Sap ch 12

Sept 28: Conservation

READ: Nystrom 11, Sap ch 13

## WEEK 7

Oct 3: **Turn in research/public engagement plan**

Oct 5: History of primatology

READ: Sussman (Blackboard), Sap ch 14

**Oct ? (SATURDAY): BIRMINGHAM ZOO FIELD TRIP (Tentative)**

## WEEK 8

Oct 10: Primates in culture and folklore

READ: Riley, Wolfe, & Fuentes (Blackboard), Sap ch 15

Oct 12: *A Lemur's Tale* movie

READ: Patricia Wright ALLELE, Sap 16

## WEEK 9

Oct 17: Primates in the lab

READ: "Primates in the Laboratory" (Blackboard), Sap ch 17

Oct 19: Old World Monkeys: *Baboon Tales* movie (viewing guide available)

READ: Sap ch 18

## WEEK 10

Oct 24: Two seminal primate studies

READ: Goodall 1972, Schaller 1972 (Blackboard), Sap 19

Oct 26: Methods in primatology

READ: Behavioral Data Collection in Primate Field Studies" (Blackboard), Sap 20

## WEEK 11

Oct 31: Zoo primatology

READ: Smith et al. 2014 (Blackboard), Sap ch 21

Nov 2: Using the F-word  
READ: Silk article (Blackboard), Sap chap 22

### **WEEK 12**

Nov 7: Primate personalities; *Face in the Forest* movie  
READ: Blaszczyk 2019, Sap ch 23

Nov 9: Ethnoprimateology  
READ: Fuentes & Hockings article, Sap chaps 24

### **WEEK 13**

Nov 14: Ethics in primatology, *Moju the Snow Monkey* movie  
READ: Riley & Bezanson 2018, Sap ch 25

Nov 16: Primate health & disease  
READ: Leprosy in Wild Chimps article, Sap chs 26

### **WEEK 14**

Nov 21: NO CLASS

Nov 23: HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

### **WEEK 15**

Nov 28: Primate microbiomes  
READ: Bjork et al 2019, Sap ch 27-28

Nov 30:  
READ: Sap 29

## ASSIGNMENTS

You'll be expected to develop and implement a creative or research project involving the material we're reading. The mid-term assignment will be the designing of the project, and the final assignment will be implementing and sharing the project results or presentation of the final project. These assignments are purposely vague to give you lots of latitude, but I will provide more structure in class and on Blackboard over the course of the semester. If proposing a research project, it should be do-able within one semester. This might involve a survey of primate keepers around the country or testing a hypothesis through zoo observations. Research projects should include hypotheses and operational designs. Creative projects could involve means of public engagement, such as TikTok sites that educate others about new research in primatology or break down fun facts for younger social media users. Again, creative projects need to have clear plans and target audiences (not just put it up there and hope people see it). We will discuss various ways of approaching these kinds of projects. Individual or group projects are acceptable. One strategy for successful group work could involve 1 or more people doing a research project with other team members responsible for engaging the public with the findings or information about the study.

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

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## 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.

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Also, "like" the UA Department of Anthropology (<https://www.facebook.com/UAAnthroDept/>) and the ALLELE series (<https://www.facebook.com/ALLELEseries/>) on Facebook 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.

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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.

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**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.