

# **MONKEYS, APES, AND OTHER PRIMATES:**

## **AN INTRODUCTION TO NON-HUMAN PRIMATES**

**ANT 450-02**

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Office hours: MW 2-3 or by appointment

Spring 2010

MW 3-4:15

353 ten Hour

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

We will watch many films in this class—footage of primates in action is often more exiting and memorable than any written description. You will be tested on material that you see in the films, so watch them carefully and take notes.

I will primarily use a lecture format but welcome and encourage you to ask questions during lectures. So do the readings and come to class prepared to be an active participant.

**PREREQUISITES:** Prerequisites for this course are ANT 100 "Introduction to Anthropology," ANT 270 "Introduction to Physical Anthropology," *or* permission of instructor.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:** By the end of the semester, you should:

- have an appreciation of the diversity of living primates
- have an understanding of the relevance of primate studies to understanding our own evolution
- know the difference between apes and monkeys and between Old World and New World primates
- understand the importance of primate conservation efforts active today
- be familiar with some of the issues surrounding zoo-based primate research
- be familiar with the primates at the Birmingham (or other nearby) Zoo
- be able to write an organized, coherent ethological report

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

- Falk, Dean 2000. *Primate Diversity*. New York: WW Norton.
- Sapolsky, Robert M. 2002. *A Primate's Memoir: A Neuroscientist's Unconventional Life Among the Baboons*. New York: Scribner.
- Turning Technologies clicker
- You are also required to read additional readings which will be placed on eLearn.

The best strategy in this (and any) class is to read the assigned materials before lecture so that you are familiar with new terms and can ask questions about any confusing material. The textbook material complements the material presented in lecture, so reading the textbook is not a substitute for attending lecture.

Course announcements, lecture slides (alone and as Tegrity files) and additional readings will be available via eLearn. Check eLearn regularly for updates to the course schedule or any other relevant announcements.

NOTE: The lecture slides provide only the barest outline of the course material—they should be used to guide your note-taking, not as a substitute for actually attending class. You cannot get all the information you'll need from the lecture slides alone. To do well in this course, you must attend class regularly and do the labs.

### **GRADING:**

**Exams:** There are two midterms and a final exam. Exams will consist of multiple-choice questions. The exams are NOT cumulative – i.e. each test will cover only the material since the previous exam. The exams will cover material presented in lecture, in the assigned readings, and in the films. You must take the exam on the scheduled date. Make-ups will not be possible after the exam has been given unless you have an extraordinarily good excuse for missing the exam. If you know in advance that you will miss an exam, a makeup can be arranged for a time **prior** to the scheduled in-class exam – but you must give me plenty of notice (i.e. several days, at least).

**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 will be available on eLearn.

**Extra Credit:** There are *two options* to earn 10 extra course points as follows, per approval of Dr. Lynn:

- (1) Active participation in Dr. Lynn's Human Behavioral Ecology Research Group (HBERG). This group meets weekly to discuss, design, and conduct research. You can initiate and conduct (or at least begin) a research project or get involved with currently active projects. To earn 10 points you must:
  - a. Attend weekly meetings (a maximum of 3 excused absences will be allowed).
  - b. Read and be prepared to summarize project-related readings as assigned.
  - c. Fulfill assigned duties related to at least one research project. You must meet with Dr. Lynn to determine what these duties will be. Project can be your own, a new project in collaboration with other group members, or one currently underway.

Because this is an active group, this is the easiest way to earn extra credit, but space in the group is limited so you must consult Dr. Lynn if you wish to join.

- (2) Alternatively, if there is no space available in the group or if your schedule precludes your participation, you may conduct an independent research project under the supervision of Dr. Lynn. To earn 10 points you must:
- a. Meet regularly with Dr. Lynn to design and implement your project.
  - b. Complete the necessary paperwork for conducting human subject or archival research.
  - c. Initiate data collection.

Turn in 10-12 page (double-spaced, not including title page or references) final report summarizing your research efforts by the last regularly scheduled day of class.

**Grades:** This course uses the A-F grade system. Your final grade is determined by the points you earned out of a total possible 330 points.

Exam 1:	100 points
Exam 2:	100 points
Exam 3:	100 points
Zoo Report:	<u>30 points</u>
TOTAL	330 points

The following is the *tentative* grade scale for this course (I reserve the right to use a more lenient scale if appropriate): A+ (100%), A (93-99%), A- (90-92.9%), B+ (87-89.9%), B (83-86.9%), B- (80-82.9%), C+ (77-79.9%), C (73-76.9%), C- (70-72.9%), D+ (67-69.9%), D (63-66.9%), D- (60-62.9%), F (<60%)

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY:** Attendance is required and will be monitored. An attendance sheet will be passed around at the *beginning* of each class (if you are late, it is your responsibility to make sure that you sign in or you will likely be counted as absent). More than two unexcused absences (or excessive tardiness) will lower your grade by 1 course point for every absence or two tardies. However, you will receive 3 bonus course points if you have no absences. Classroom participation will not be directly graded but is likely to enhance your performance in the course.

### **POLICY FOR MAKING-UP MISSED COURSE WORK**

**Attendance:** If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to contact a classmate to get notes from a particular lecture. Lectures will be recorded and available in a Tegrity folder on eLearn, but I will not meet with you to clarify a whole lecture because of an absence. It behooves you to use Tegrity 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 2 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.

**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. If you cannot coordinate this, you can rent a Zipcar (<http://www.zipcar.com/uAlabama/>). As a last resort, there is a Greyhound bus route between Tuscaloosa and Birmingham that leaves five times a day, but there is only bus service within Birmingham to the zoo during the week, so either plan your trip accordingly or use a taxi on the weekend.

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, and many other nearby cities that may interest you.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY:** All acts of dishonesty in any work constitute academic misconduct. This includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication of information, misrepresentations, and abetting of any of the above. The Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Policy will be followed in the event that academic misconduct occurs. Students should refer to the Student Affairs Handbook, which can be obtained in the Office of Student Life and Services in the Ferguson Center

Plagiarism is simply representing the words of another as one's own. Here are some examples:

1. downloading a term paper from the web or buying a term paper
2. failing to give proper credit to the source of an idea
3. forgetting to supply a set of quotation marks

**DISABILITY POLICY:** If you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss any course accommodations that may be necessary. If you have a disability but have not contacted the Office of Disability Services ([www.sa.ua.edu/CTL](http://www.sa.ua.edu/CTL)), please call 354-5175 or visit Osband Hall to register for services.

**COURSE SCHEDULE:** Note this is schedule is subject to change. Check the announcements on eLearn regularly for any changes to the schedule.

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
Mon 1/11	Intro to Course Why study primates? Evolutionary Theory	Falk ch 1; Sapolsky ch 1
Wed 1/13		
Mon 1/18	<b>NO CLASS: MLK Jr. Birthday</b>	Falk ch 2; Sapolsky ch 2
Wed 1/20	Primate Characteristics Primate Taxonomy	

Mon 1/25	Primate Evolution Primate Social Groups	Falk ch 2; Jolly chapter (eLearn); Sapolsky chaps 3-4
Wed 1/27		
Mon 2/1	Reproductive Strategies Exercise – evolutionary psychology Mate Choice and Reciprocity	Falk ch 2; Sapolsky chaps 5-6; eLearn Readings; Mate choice exercise on eLearn
Wed 2/3		
Mon 2/8	Prosimians: Lemurs, Lorises, Tarsiers Film: <i>A Lemur's Tale</i>	Falk chaps 3-4; Sapolsky chaps 7-8
Wed 2/10		
Mon 2/15	<b>M: EXAM 1</b>	Falk ch 5; Sapolsky chaps 9-10
Wed 2/17	NW Monkeys: Callitrichines Film: <i>Gremlins: Faces in the Forest</i>	
Mon 2/22	NW Monkeys: Cebidae and Atelidae Film: <i>Social Climbers</i>	Falk chap 6; Sapolsky chaps 11-12
Wed 2/24		
Mon 3/1	OW Monkeys: Colobines, Cercopithecines Film: <i>Baboon Tales</i>	Falk chaps 7-8; Sapolsky chaps 13-14
Wed 3/3		
Mon 3/8	OW Monkeys: Cercopithecines	Falk chaps 8-9; Sapolsky chaps 15-16
Wed 3/10		
Mon 3/15	<b>NO CLASS: Spring Break</b>	
Wed 3/17		
Mon 3/22	Monday: Film: <i>Snow Monkey</i> <b>Wednesday: EXAM 2</b>	Falk chap 10; Sapolsky chaps 17-18
Wed 3/24		
Mon 3/29	Apes: Gibbons & Orangutans Film: <i>Orangutans with Julia Roberts</i>	Falk chap 11; Sapolsky chaps 19-20
Wed 3/31		
Mon 4/5	Film: <i>Mountain Gorilla</i> Apes: Gorillas, Chimps and Bonobos	Falk chaps 12-13; Sapolsky chaps 21-22
Wed 4/7		
Mon 4/12	Chimps and Bonobos Tool Use in Primates Film: <i>Wild Chimpanzees</i>	Falk chap 13; Sapolsky chaps 23-24; eLearn Readings
Wed 4/14		
Mon 4/19	Cultural Behavior Primate Cognition and Communication Film: <i>Monkey in the Mirror</i>	eLearn Readings Falk chap 13; Sapolsky chaps 25-26
Wed 4/21		
Mon 4/26	Hominids	Falk chap 14; Sapolsky ch 27-28
Wed 4/28	Catch-up/Review	Sapolsky ch 29

**Final Exam: Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 7-9:30PM**