

ANT 312 Section 001: Non-Human Primates

Fall 2011

3 Credit Hours

Primary Instructor: Dr. Christopher Lynn

Syllabus subject to change.

Prerequisites

From the Student Records System

- ANT 100 (undergrad)
- Or
- ANT 270 (undergrad)

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.

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 Texts

UA Supply Store Textbook Information

- **CAMPBELL / PRIMATES IN PERSPECTIVE**
(Required)
- **CAMPBELL (RENTAL) / (RENTAL) PRIMATES IN PERSPECTIVE**
(RENTAL)
- **SAPOLSKY / PRIMATE'S MEMOIR**
(Required)

Exams and Assignments

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).

Quizzes: There will be a quiz every time the class meets. Each quiz will be administered immediately at the beginning of class.

Quizzes cannot be made up, whether due to tardiness or absence (unexcused or excused), **SO DON'T BE LATE TO CLASS**. The quiz will be 1-2 questions and will be based on the assigned readings in the Sapolsky book. **DO ASSIGNED READINGS FOR EACH DATE BEFORE THE CLASS MEETS**. It's also helpful for testing purposes and long-term memory to reread them again after lectures, but that won't help you on quizzes. This book is a light, fun read about baboons and the logistics of being a primatologist and should be easy to keep up with.

Zoo Report (Due Dec. 1): 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 eLearning.

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

	1=unacceptable	2=poor	3=fair	4=good
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)				

Grading Policy

This course uses the A-F grade system. Your final grade is determined by the points you earned out 100.

Test 1:	25 points
Test 2:	25 points
Final Exam:	25points
Zoo Report:	20 points
<u>Quizzes:</u>	<u>5 points</u>
TOTAL	100 points

You can earn up to 5 course points in extra credit as outlined below.

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 Policy

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY: Attendance is required and will be monitored. Quizzes are used to determine who is in attendance. **IF YOU ARE LATE TO CLASS AND MISS THE QUIZ, YOU MUST PROVIDE ME A SHEET OF PAPER WITH YOUR NAME AND DATE ON IT OR YOU WILL BE MARKED AS ABSENT.** More than two unexcused absences will result in your course grade being lowered by FIVE course points. It will be lowered by 5 additional courses 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. 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.

Outline of Topics

Enter text here.

Note: Schedule subject to change without notice. Check eLearning regularly for updates.

DATE	WEEK/DAY	TOPIC/READINGS	ACTIVITY
	<u>Week 1</u>	<u>Why Study Primates/Primate Characteristics</u>	
Aug 25	R	Primates in Perspective (PiP) 1-2, Sapolsky (Sap) 1	
	<u>Week 2</u>	<u>Evolution & Ecology</u>	
Aug 30	T	PiP 3, Sap 2-3	
Sept 1	R	PiP 32, Sap 4	
	<u>Week 3</u>	<u>Reproductive Strategies</u>	
Sept 6	T	PiP 29, Sap 5	
Sept 8	R	PiP 30, Sap 6	
	<u>Week 4</u>	<u>Prosimians: Lemurs, Tarsiers, & Lorises</u>	
Sept 13	T	--	EXAM 1
Sept 15	R	PiP 5, Sap 7	
	<u>Week 5</u>	<u>Prosimians</u>	
Sept 20	T	PiP 6, Sap 8	
Sept 22	R	PiP 7, Sap 9	Film: A Lemur's Tale
	<u>Week 6</u>	<u>NW Monkeys: Callitrichines</u>	
Sept 27	T	PiP 7, Sap 10	
Sept 29	R	Sap 11	Film: Face in the Forest
	<u>Week 7</u>	<u>NW Monkeys: Cebidae & Atelidae</u>	
Oct 4	T	PiP 8, Sap 12	
Oct 6	R	PiP 11, Sap 13	Film: Social Climbers
	<u>Week 8</u>	<u>OW Monkeys: Colobines</u>	
Oct 11	T	PiP 12, Sap 14	
Oct 13	R	PiP 13, Sap 15	Film: Baboon Tales
	<u>Week 9</u>	<u>OW Monkeys: Cercopithecines</u>	
Oct 18	T	PiP 14, Sap 16	
Oct 20	R	PiP 15, Sap 17	Film: Snow Monkey
	<u>Week 10</u>		
Oct 25	T	--	EXAM 2
Oct 27	R	NO CLASS	MID-SEMESTER BREAK
	<u>Week 11</u>	<u>Apes: Gibbons & Orangutans</u>	
Nov 1	T	PiP 17, Sap 18	
Nov 3	R	PiP 18, Sap 19	Film: Orangutans with Julia Roberts
	<u>Week 12</u>	<u>Apes: Gorillas & Chimps</u>	

Nov 8	T	PiP 19, Sap 20	
Nov 10	R	PiP 20, Sap 21	Film: Mountain Gorilla
		<u>Week 13</u>	<u>Methods in Primatology</u>
Nov 15	T	PiP 21, Sap 22	
Nov 17	R	Sap 23-24	Film: Ape Genius
		<u>Week 14</u>	<u>Cultural Behavior</u>
Nov 22	T	PiP 42, Sap 25-26	
Nov 24	R	NO CLASS	HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
		<u>Week 15</u>	<u>Cognition & Conservation</u>
Nov 29	T	PiP 43, Sap 27	Video: Sapolsky talk
Dec 1	R	PiP 45, Sap 28	ZOO OBSERVATION ACTIVITY DUE
		<u>Week 16</u>	<u>Ethnoprimateology</u>
Dec 8	T	PiP 46, Sap 29	

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 8-10:30

FINAL EXAM

Policy on Missed Exams & Coursework

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 eLearning, 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 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.

Quizzes: Quizzes cannot be made up, whether you missed it because you were late to class or because you were absent (excused or unexcused).

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 (even Montgomery has a decent one) that may interest you.

Extra Credit Opportunities

You can earn up to 5 course points in extra credit by bringing in "primate food" for the whole class and giving a short presentation (5-10 minutes) on what primate(s) eat it and the ecological circumstances. This is a very simple but potentially very fun activity; that is totally up to how much effort you put into it. My only warning is that you not bring in a bunch of bananas and say "monkeys eat these," unless you are prepared to give me a convincing ecological argument. You can modify the food for human consumption if necessary or desirable, but make sure your presentation addresses the core or unprocessed ingredient the primate eats and how they eat it. For instance, in the past I have brought in honey-roasted crickets, varieties of leaves (be sure they are not poisonous!), syrup, nuts (and rocks to open them with), and durian fruit.

Please let me know in advance when you would like to do this so I can budget time into or around scheduled lectures and activities.

Evolutionary Studies

This course fulfills an elective requirement in both the Anthropology major and minor and a new minor in **Evolutionary Studies (EvoS)**. If you are not an Anthropology major or minor and have not already decided to declare as such, we hope this course leads you to consider doing so. EvoS is an interdisciplinary minor, housed in the Department of Anthropology and is designed to introduce students to the fundamental importance of evolutionary theory as an explanatory model for life and behavior. This course fulfills an elective requirement in the EvoS minor. Other requirements of the minor include two capstone courses (including ANT 150, offered every Spring), a 200-level course in the biological principles of evolution, and a foundational course in one of three disciplines. Minors are required to complete six elective hours in two separate disciplines.

This program is integrated with UA's **Evolution and Origins Working Group (EVOWOG)** and its **Alabama Lectures on Life's Evolution (ALLELE)** speaker series ("Like" us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/ALLELEseries] to stay informed!). You are strongly encouraged to attend the ALLELE lectures presented this semester. This minor is part of a larger **EvoS Consortium**, which includes approximately 42 other institutions worldwide, though we are only one of four full-fledged minors. We take pride in this fact, given that Alabama recently scored at the very bottom of the 50 states in teaching evolution at the k-12 levels (even worse than Mississippi!).

As part of the EvoS program, the students have started an **EvoS club**, that we hope will grow out of this class. You are welcome to become part of this club whether you declare yourself an EvoS minor or simply maintain an abiding interest in evolutionary theory and its myriad applications and implications. We hope the activities of the club will include regular evolution-oriented field trips and organizing activities around ALLELE speakers. The first trip that is being planned is one to visit the new human evolution exhibit at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

If you are interested in the EvoS minor (either to declare or for more information), contact either Dr. Lynn (cdlynn@ua.edu) or Dr. Rissler (rissler@as.ua.edu), who are co-directors of the program.

Facebook

There is a closed Facebook group for this course at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/179401388799455/>. Please join us. It will be a 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 eLearning forums designed for the same purpose.

Also, "like" the UA Department of Anthropology (www.facebook.com/UAAnthroDept) and the ALLELE series (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.

Policy on Academic Misconduct

All students in attendance at the University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. Academic misconduct includes all acts of dishonesty in any academically related matter and any knowing or intentional help or attempt to help, or conspiracy to help, another student.

[The Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Policy](#) will be followed in the event of academic misconduct.

Disability Statement

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, please call 348-4285 or visit 133-B Martha Parham Hall East to register for services. Students who may need course adaptations because of a disability are welcome to make an appointment to see me during office hours. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services, 133-B Martha Parham Hall East, before receiving academic adjustments.

Severe Weather Protocol

In the case of a tornado warning (tornado has been sighted or detected by radar; sirens activated), all university activities are automatically suspended, including all classes and laboratories. If you are in a building, please move immediately to the lowest

level and toward the center of the building away from windows (interior classrooms, offices, or corridors) and remain there until the tornado warning has expired. Classes in session when the tornado warning is issued can resume immediately after the warning has expired at the discretion of the instructor. Classes that have not yet begun will resume 30 minutes after the tornado warning has expired provided at least half of the class period remains.

UA is a residential campus with many students living on or near campus. In general classes will remain in session until the National Weather Service issues safety warnings for the city of Tuscaloosa. Clearly, some students and faculty commute from adjacent counties. These counties may experience weather related problems not encountered in Tuscaloosa. Individuals should follow the advice of the National Weather Service for that area taking the necessary precautions to ensure personal safety. Whenever the National Weather Service and the Emergency Management Agency issue a warning, people in the path of the storm (tornado or severe thunderstorm) should take immediate life saving actions.

When West Alabama is under a severe weather advisory, conditions can change rapidly. It is imperative to get to where you can receive information from the [National Weather Service](#) and to follow the instructions provided. Personal safety should dictate the actions that faculty, staff and students take. The Office of Public Relations will disseminate the latest information regarding conditions on campus in the following ways:

- Weather advisory posted on the UA homepage
- Weather advisory sent out through Connect-ED--faculty, staff and students ([sign up at myBama](#))
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA at 90.7 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over Alabama Public Radio (WUAL) at 91.5 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA 7. WVUA 7 Storm Watch provides a free service you can subscribe to that allows you to receive weather warnings for Tuscaloosa via e-mail, pager or cell phone. Check <http://www.wvua7.com/stormwatch.html> for details.