

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
University of Calgary

ANTHROPOLOGY 311.01: Primate Behaviour
Fall 2016

Class Time: TR 12:30-13:45pm
Class Location: ENC70

Instructor: Josie Vayro

Email: jvvayro@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours (ES 610E): Thursdays 14:00-15:00

TA: Rachel Williamson

Email: rachel.williamson1@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours (ES722): Mondays 13:00-15:00

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will cover the fundamentals of primate behaviour research and theory, including: evolution, social dynamics, socio-biology, socio-ecology, dominance, aggression, kinship, sexual behaviour, reproductive strategies, cognition, and communication. You will learn primate taxonomy and be able to apply these concepts to conceptualize and describe genetic, ecological and behavioural variation exhibited across primate groups.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course you will be able to:

- Explain the history and motives behind primate studies in terms of understanding human evolution and species variation.
- Recognize features and theories associated with the origin of the primate pattern and primate evolutionary history.
- Identify primate taxonomy and characteristics unique to each taxonomic group.
- Distinguish between the different elements of primate socio-ecology, social groups, and factors that contribute to group variation, including male and female reproductive strategies and their influence on social organization.
- Describe the principles of natural selection and sexual selection, as well as the components of sociobiology.
- Discuss characteristics associated with stages of the primate lifecycle.
- Explain how primates share information with each other through four modes of communication, as well as how they interact with non-primate species.
- Identify threats to primate populations and organizations involved in the development of conservation policies.

REQUIRED TEXT: *Primate Behavioural Ecology* by Karen Strier, 4th Edition, 2010

CLASSROOM NORMS

Norms will be negotiated on the first day of class and will cover the following areas:

- Attendance and punctuality

- Questions and participation
- Use of technology: laptops and cell phones
- Exam attendance and conduct

ATTENDANCE AND COURSE MATERIALS

Students will need to attend class to do well in this course! The textbook material is related and complementary to lecture material. However, lectures will not be tightly tied to the format of the textbook and both need to be mastered to do well on exams. Students should read the text and pay close attention to areas where it overlaps with the lectures. Please read the text to understand broad ideas, theories, definitions, and to learn which primate groups and species are associated with learned concepts. The text provides different examples than what is covered in class to supplement your learning and to help to clarify concepts.

Lecture notes: will be posted as 3- and 6-slide PDF handouts on D2L and can be printed before class to assist in note-taking. Some pictures and whole PPT files will not be posted due to copyright of figures and photographs.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Subject to change depending on how quickly material is covered or unforeseeable circumstances (e.g., university closure).

DATE	LECTURE MATERIAL AND TESTS	TEXT CHAPTER
Tuesday Sept 13	Course overview An introduction to primate studies	1
Thursday Sept 15	The primate pattern & theories for the origins of the primates	2*, 3
Tuesday Sept 20	Primate survey Part 1	2*, 3
Thursday Sept 22	Video: <i>Lemurs with John Cleese</i> Primate survey Part 1-2	2*, 3
Tuesday Sept 27	Primate Survey Part 2	2*, 3
Thursday Sept 29	Primate survey Part 3	2*, 3
Tuesday Oct 4	Group living and dispersal patterns	3
Thursday Oct 6	Social and mating systems	3
Tuesday Oct 11	Video: <i>Monkey Island – Cayo Santiago Rhesus macaques</i>	3
Thursday Oct 13	Term Test 1 (30%)	
Tuesday Oct 18	Natural Selection, kin selection and reciprocal altruism	4
Thursday Oct 20	Sexual selection, parental investment and limiting resources	5
Tuesday Oct 25	Male reproductive strategies	5, 8
Thursday Oct 27	Video: <i>Gelada Baboons – The Battles of Braveheart</i> Male reproductive strategies	5, 8
Tuesday Nov 1	Female reproductive strategies, food competition and socio-ecology	5, 6, 7
Thursday Nov 2	Video: <i>The New Chimpanzees</i> Female reproductive strategies, food competition and socio-ecology	5, 6, 7
Tuesday Nov 8	Term Test 2 (30%)	
Thursday Nov 10	The primate life cycle	9
Tuesday Nov 15	Mid-Term Break – No Lectures	
Thursday Nov 17	Video: <i>Gremlins: Faces in the Forest</i> The primate life cycle	9
Tuesday Nov 22	Communication and cognition	10

Thursday Nov 24	Video: <i>Ape Genius</i> Communication and cognition	10
Tuesday Nov 29	Primate community ecology	11
Thursday Dec 1	Video: <i>The Three Monkeys</i> Primate community ecology	11
Tuesday Dec 6	Primate Conservation	12
Thursday Dec 8 (last class)	Primate conservation	12
Dec 12 -22	Final Exam (40%) (Cumulative: all lectures, videos since Term Test 2 and the entire textbook) Date TBA, scheduled by the Registrar	
* PLEASE SEE APPENDIX 1 FOR REVISED PRIMATE TAXONOMIC CHART. It REPLACES the taxonomic chart found on page 42 in the Strier textbook. DO NOT refer to the chart provided in your text – the chart I've provided is more current and widely used.		

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Term Test 1 (30%): Thursday, Oct 13th - This test will be multiple choice and true/false format and will cover all preceding lecture materials, videos, and textbook readings.

Term Test 2 (30%): Tuesday, November 8th - This test will be multiple choice and true/false format (same as Term Test 1) and will test lecture materials, videos and textbook readings covered **since** Term Test One.

Cumulative Final Exam (40%): Registrar scheduled December 12th-22nd - This test is **CUMULATIVE** will be multiple choice and true/false format. It will cover all lecture materials, videos, and textbook readings for the entire term.

Please note: ALL lecture materials will be covered on exams; this includes videos, lectures, discussions, and guest lectures. Lectures do not exactly follow the text chapters so please read actively and carefully!

GRADE BREAKDOWN

A+	100-94.9%	B+	84.8-79.9%	C+	70.8-66.9 %	D+	58.8-54.9%
A	94.8-89.9%	B	79.8-74.9%	C	66.8-62.9 %	D	54.8-49.9%
A-	89.8-84.9%	B-	74.8-70.9%	C-	62.8-58.9%	F	49.8% and less

Academic Accommodations:

The academic accommodations policy can be found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy>.

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodations and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact them at 403-220-6019. Students that have not registered with the SAS are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. More information about the academic accommodations can be found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access>.

ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Missed Exams – Missed tests automatically receive a score of zero. In the event of an emergency or illness, you **MUST** notify the instructor, Mackenzie Bergstrom (mbergstr@ucalgary.ca), **BEFORE** the

exam, and documentation (i.e. a doctor's note) may be requested before or at the time of the scheduled make-up test. Make-up tests will be scheduled no later than 1 week after the missed exam.

Returned Exams – Exam marks will be posted on D2L but exams will not be handed back. Students will be allowed to view both their own exam and the answer key during scheduled office hours, or by appointment. After reviewing the key and your notes, if you feel that you were marked unfairly or that marks were missed on your exam, you can address the concern with the instructor. You may be asked to prepare a short statement explaining the concern. The entire question will then be re-graded and marks adjusted (up or down, as is warranted) at the instructor's discretion. Exam grades will only be reviewed/adjusted for up to two weeks following the exam. You may view your exam after the two weeks, but no re-grading or adjusting will occur.

No accommodation will be made for poor performance on exams. For instance, additional items cannot be submitted in lieu of exams and grades will not be curved. Please be sure that you are well-prepared for exams so that you perform well when you have the opportunity!

COMMUNICATION ETIQUETTE (e.g., email)

- Please use your university account when possible. Otherwise, use an account with an appropriate name (Example of an unacceptable email: sexymama@gmail.com).
- Use a clear subject line that includes the course name/section and the topic of the email such as "ANTH 311.60 Question about my schedule"
- Please be respectful (i.e., not too casual) when addressing me in an email. Use an appropriate greeting (acceptable: "Dear Ms. Vayro"; unacceptable: "Hey there"). Please proof-read, spell check and use complete sentences.
- Keep the question(s) short and to the point. Show that you have made an effort to find the answer first in the text and lecture material (or even an outside source). State what you know in relation to what you are having a difficult time understanding.
- Include your full name and student ID in the signature of your email.
- Allow 48 hours for a response, excluding weekends and holidays.

***Please note: I may choose not to respond to emails that do not follow the format outlined above** so please be thorough and respectful when addressing me with a concern and in return, I will try my very best to get back to you as soon as possible to accommodate your needs.

Examples of good and bad email etiquette:

1) Good

Subject: ANTH 311.01 Question about traits

Dear Ms. Vayro,

I'm not sure I fully understand the difference between "derived" and "primitive" traits. Based on my understanding, primitive traits must have occurred as far back as a common ancestor of the species being compared. Derived traits can occur anywhere along the ancestral line after the common ancestor, including humans and modern day primates. So, is the difference that derived traits came about in whichever species in which they occur after the branching from a common ancestor, whereas primitive traits are there because the common ancestor had them and they have not been lost throughout evolution?

Thank you for your time, Agood

Student (SID# 12345678)

2) Bad (yes, this was an actual email my colleague received at 3pm the day of an exam)

Subject:

what up? i dont get it. what is derived and primitive trate? r u gonna test this? can u get back to me fast cuz the test is today and i need to studddy.

(no name)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

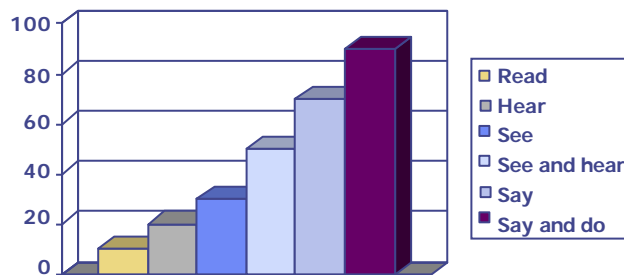
Any single occurrence of cheating, plagiarism, or other variant of academic misconduct upon any single assignment, essay, or examination, can result in disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion by the faculty dean. All university-level policies apply to this course. Details of this policy can be found in the University Calendar: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar>, under "Academic Regulations."

EMERGENCY EVACUATION

In the event that the classroom should need to be evacuated due to an emergency situation please note that the primary assembly point from our classroom (ES162) shall be at the ICT Food Court, and the alternate assembly point shall be at the Social Sciences Food Court.

FINAL NOTES FOR SUCCESS

- If at any time during the course you do not understand the material, please ask me: a) during class (please raise your hand), b) during lecture breaks, c) before or after class, d) via email, or e) during office hours. I would like to help you succeed!
- I encourage you to get to know some of your fellow students and study together. Studies show that the average person only retains 10% of the material they READ versus 90% of the material they READ, then RECITE, EXPLAIN OR DEMONSTRATE! (See graph from the U of C Teaching and Learning Centre below):



Thank you for your attention. I am looking forward to a great semester! J