

The Nonhuman Primates

T & TH 2:00 – 3:15 pm
Storm Hall 255

INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. Erin Riley

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Office hours: T 3:30 – 4:30 pm
W 2 -3 pm



PREREQUISITE: ANTH 101 (or equivalent)

COURSE OVERVIEW:

The goal of this course is to provide an overview of the living nonhuman primates by focusing on their taxonomy, distribution, feeding ecology, reproduction, social organization, and conservation. In addition, we will explore a number of current “hot topics” in primatology, including self-medication, nonhuman primate intelligence and culture, and human-nonhuman primate interactions. Through course readings, lectures, videos, and in-class discussions, students will ultimately understand what it means to be a primate and the significance of primate research for the field of anthropology.

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

- (1) Explain how the study of nonhuman primates fits within the larger field of anthropology.
- (2) Describe the major theoretical approaches used in primatology.
- (3) Apply methods used in primatology to observe primate behavior.
- (4) Explain why primates have adapted to different environments.
- (5) Explain why primates have different types of social organization.
- (6) Describe the problems in primate conservation and how anthropological research can provide a deeper understanding of these problems.
- (7) Review and critically assess scientific research publications in biological anthropology.

BLACKBOARD: This course is a web facilitated course, using Blackboard. All students can access the course Blackboard using their SDSU red ID login and password at <https://blackboard.sdsu.edu/webapps/login>

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Campbell, C. et al., eds. 2007. *Primates in Perspective*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Ciochon, R.L. and R.A. Nisbett, ed. 1998. *The Primate Anthology*. Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Your overall grade for this course will be based on five components:

2 Exams	= 50%
Surprise quizzes	= 10%
Zoo project	= 10%
Critical Essays	= 25%
Class presentations	= 5 %

- **Exams:** There will be a midterm and final (non-cumulative) exam. The exams will be based on lecture materials (including videos!) and assigned reading, and will consist of any combination of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching columns, true or false, definition/short answer, and short essay style questions.
 - Midterm exam = 20%
 - Final exam = 30%
- **Surprise quizzes:** There will be a total of **six** quizzes throughout the semester. I will administer these at the beginning of class *on a surprise basis*. The quizzes will consist of short-answer questions and will cover readings for the day (but also draw upon basic knowledge from previous classes). These quizzes will also serve as your preparation for mini-discussions during the lecture period. Your final quiz grade will be based on your *top five* best scores (i.e., I will throw out your lowest quiz score).
- **Zoo project:** This project will entail you spending time at the San Diego Zoo observing primates. The San Diego Zoo offers discounted passes for students (\$15) which are good for 6 months. I will collect money for these passes in the first two weeks of the semester.
- **Critical Essays:** There will a total of **three** critical essays. The critical essay will be a thoughtful review and analysis of a recent primatology research article published in one of the major journals of primatological research. Within the first week of the semester I will assign you to one of the four primate radiations: Prosimians, New World Monkeys, Old World Monkeys, and Apes. Your designated group will serve as the subject of these critical essays as well as the class presentations.
 - The purpose of the critical essay is for you to learn to read, evaluate, and present your analysis of the merit and the potential ramifications of a scientific publication.
 - The research article should be based on a primate species that is a member of your designated primate group.
 - You must get your research article approved by me before you write your analysis.
 - I will evaluate your first essay and then return it for a re-write, so that you learn what it is I expect from you. Be sure to take into account all of my comments when re-writing the essays. There will be no re-writes for the subsequent essays.
- **Class Presentations:** In the last 2 weeks of the semester, you will present information gained from lectures, readings, and your critical essays on a species (or set of species) from your designated primate group. Presentations should be done using power-point and should be 5 minutes in duration.

Note: I will post more details and further instructions for the zoo project, critical essays, and class presentation on blackboard later in the semester

COURSE POLICIES:

- **Attendance Policy:**
 - Class attendance is mandatory. Exams will be based mostly on class lectures, so you will not do well in the class if you do not come to class.
 - Please understand that if you do miss class, you are responsible for the missed material. I would recommend borrowing notes from a classmate, as I do not hand-out or post (on blackboard) lecture notes.
 - It is also your responsibility to make sure that you obtain any handouts given out and find out about any announcements made during the missed class.

- **Make-up Exam Policy**
 - There will be no make-up examinations except in the case of a severe illness, injury, or family emergency.
 - You must notify me by telephone or in person **prior** to the scheduled time. You must also be able to provide documentation/evidence for the excuse.

- **Extra Credit:** There will be no extra credit projects assigned.

- **Classroom behavior**
 - Please do not have conversations with other classmates once the lectures begin, except those that are a part of our class discussions. Personal conversations are distracting for both myself and your fellow classmates, so please be courteous.
 - Please turn off and secure all electronic entertainment devices (i.e., cell phones, ipods, etc.) **prior** to the start of class.
 - Please note that the use of any such devices during examinations and quizzes could lead to an accusation of academic dishonesty.

- **Academic Dishonesty**
 - I will not tolerate academic dishonesty in this course.
 - Academic dishonesty includes *cheating, plagiarizing, unauthorized collaborating on course work, stealing course examinations or materials, falsifying records or data, or intentionally assisting another individual in any of the above*. It also includes any similar conduct which is aimed at falsely representing a student's academic performance.
 - I would recommend that you familiarize yourself with the SDSU's "Standards for Student Conduct Code" and policies on academic misconduct at the following websites: <http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr/judicial/detailsMisconduct.html> and <http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr/judicial/CheatingDisruption.html>
 - Students who engage in ANY form of academic dishonesty will receive an "F" for the course grade and will be reported to the Anthropology Department's Undergraduate Coordinator and SDSU's Judicial Coordinator. The Judicial Coordinator will then conduct an investigation, and depending on the outcome, the student may be placed on probation, suspended, or expelled.

- **Physical and Learning Disabilities:** If you have a disability that impedes your learning or test taking, please visit Student Disabilities Services, located in Calpulli Center, Suite 3100 (third floor). Student Disabilities Services is responsible for providing appropriate academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Their website is: http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/dss/dss_home.html

COURSE OUTLINE & SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topics	Readings	Due
	18 Jan, Th	Introduction to Primatology		
1	23 Jan, T	Primate taxonomy & distribution	C: Ch. 1, 2 C&N: 14,15	
	25 Jan, Th	Theoretical approaches: Behavioral ecology & primatology	C: Ch. 14, 28	
2	30 Jan, T	Evolution of sociality: Why live in groups?	C: Ch. 7, 37 C&N: 2, 11	
	1 Feb, Th	Primate social organization: Ecological and evolutionary context	C: Ch. 10,13	
3	6 Feb, T	Primate social organization cont.	C&N: 1, 7	
	8 Feb, Th	Diet & feeding ecology I	C: Ch. 29, 33 C&N: 23, 24	
4	13 Feb, T	Diet & feeding ecology II	C&N: Pp.133-39, # 21, 22	
	15 Feb, Th	Predation & seed dispersal	C: Ch. 31 – 32 C&N: 26, 27	Critical Essay #1
5	20 Feb, T	Reproduction I: Mating	C: Ch. 23, 24 C&N: 25	
	22 Feb, Th	Reproduction II: Sexual strategies	C: Ch. 25, 26 C&N: 20	
6	27 Feb, T	Reproduction III: Dispersal patterns	C: Ch. 21, 27	Re-write of CA #1
	1 Mar, Th	Intraspecific community ecology I: Aggression	C: Ch. 34	
7	6 Mar, T	Intraspecific community ecology II: Conflict, cooperation & reconciliation	C: Ch. 36, 39	
	8 Mar, Th	MIDTERM EXAM		
8	13 Mar, T	Interspecific community ecology: Polyspecific associations	C: Ch. 15 C&N: 13, 16 - 18	
	15 Mar, Th	Methods in primatology	C: Ch. 20 C&N: 29	
9	20 Mar, T	No class: Zoo day		
	22 Mar	Infanticide	C&N: 6	Critical Essay #2
10		SPRING BREAK		
11	3 Apr, T	Hot topics: Primate self-medication	C: Ch. 42	
	5 Apr, Th	Primate communication	C: Ch. 35, 38 C&N: 33	
12	10 Apr, T	Hot topics: Culture in nonhuman primates?	C: Ch. 40, 41	

	12 Apr, Th	Primate Conservation: Ex-situ		
13	17 Apr, T	Primate Conservation: In-situ	C: Ch. 30 C&N: 28, 31	
	19 Apr, Th	Hot topics: Human-nonhuman primate interactions	C: Ch. 43 C&N: 30, 32	Zoo Project
14	24 Apr, T	Human-nonhuman primate interactions cont.	C: Ch. 44	
	26 Apr	Student presentations: Prosimians	C: Ch. 3 -5	
15	1 May, T	Student presentations: New World Monkeys	C: Ch. 6, 8, 9	
	3 May, Th	Student presentations: Old World Monkeys	C: Ch. 11	Critical Essay #3
Last Class	8 May, T	Student presentations: Apes	C: Ch. 16 - 19	
Final	10 May, Th	Final Exam 1 – 3 pm SH 255		

For readings: C = Campbell et al. textbook (*Primates in Perspective*); C&N: Ciochon & Nisbett (*Primate Anthology*)

NOTE: This syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary and will be announced in class. Students absent from class are responsible for determining if any modifications were announced.