

PRIMATE SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

M 2:00 – 3:40 pm
W 2:00 – 4:40 pm
Storm Hall 255

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Erin P. Riley
Office: AL 457
Email: eriley@mail.sdsu.edu
Phone: 619.594.8628
Office hours: T & Th 2 – 3 pm, or by appt.



Graduate Assistant: Jodi Stoneman
Email: jlstoneman@yahoo.com
Office hours: W 10:00 – 12:30pm, SH 257

PREREQUISITE: ANTH 101 (or equivalent); ANTH 301 and/or ANTH 406 preferred

COURSE OVERVIEW: The goal of this course is for you to obtain background and training in methods used in the study of primate behavior. To do so, this course includes a lecture (Mondays) and a laboratory component (Wednesdays). The lecture component will involve lectures, videos, and in-class discussions. For the laboratory component, we will go to the San Diego Zoo where you will conduct a research project based on 25 hours of observation (15 of which will be during class time). The research project will entail you formulating a testable hypothesis (based on preliminary observations and literature review), collecting and analyzing data, and discussing your results in the context of relevant primatological literature. At the end of the semester, each student will give an oral presentation of their research project.

*** Note to graduate students:* in addition to completing the assignments outlined below, you will be expected to complete 30 hours of observation, compile a more extensive bibliography, and write a longer and more in-depth final report based on more sophisticated data analyses.

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

1. Apply various methods used to study animal behavior
2. Devise a testable research question
3. Conduct a literature review
4. Develop and apply skills in data analysis and presentation

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:

- (1) Martin, P. & P. Bateson (1993) *Measuring Behaviour*. 2nd Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- (2) Paterson, J.D. (2001) *Primate Behavior: An Exercise Workbook*. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Press.
- (3) Additional reading material will be posted on Blackboard under “Readings” (see course schedule).

LAB EQUIPMENT:

San Diego Zoo offers discounted passes to students for \$15 good for 6 months. I will arrange for these the first week of classes. Unless otherwise stated, on Wednesdays we will meet at the main entrance of the zoo at 2pm.

You will need the following equipment before you begin to collect data:

- Clipboard
- Watch with a sweep second hand or a stopwatch
- Binoculars (You can purchase a decent but cheap pair of binoculars (e.g., less than \$30) at Target, Sports Chalet in Mission Valley mall or online)
- Water bottle
- Portfolio notebook
 - o 1 inch ringbinder
 - o Index dividers Research questions; Preliminary observations; Ethogram; Daily Observations; Lab Exercises; Data analyses/Statistics; References; Final report; Presentation notes

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Your final grade for this course will be based on the following assignments:

1. **Initial Proposal** (10%): DUE MON, SEPT. 24TH. This is a preliminary proposal of what you intend to do for your research project. You must clearly state your research topic and 2 – 3 working hypotheses framed as testable questions.
2. **Lab Exercises** (20%): see schedule for due dates.
3. **Project Proposal** (10%): DUE WED, OCT. 17TH. This will be an extension of your initial proposal whereby you will state your major research questions and the methods you will use to test those questions.
4. **Bibliography** (10%):
 - a. **Initial Bibliography**: DUE MON, NOV. 5TH. This assignment will constitute the preliminary bibliography for the references you will cite in your final report. This list should include at least 5 primary sources (e.g., journal articles) and 2 general books. (Note for grad students: 10 primary sources and 2 books)
 - b. **Literature Review**: DUE WED, NOV 21ST: For this assignment you will submit a bibliography that includes at least 10 sources (20 for grad students) and a written synthesis (1-1.5 typed pages) of those literature. More details later in the semester.
5. **Data Work-Up** (10%): DUE WED, NOV 29TH. This assignment will require you to present a representative sample of your data and preliminary analyses of those data. I will give a detailed handout describing this assignment later in the semester.
6. **Final Report & Portfolio** (30%): DUE WED, DEC. 12TH. I will give a detailed handout describing this assignment later in the semester. You will submit your final report as part of your class portfolio.
7. **Class Presentation** (10%): Each student will give a 5-minute powerpoint presentation on their research project. I will give a detailed handout describing this assignment later in the semester.

All assignments will be graded as follows: 100, 95, 90, 85, 80 etc. Final grades in the course will be assigned to the following scales, based on percentages: A 93-100, A- 90-92, B+ 87-89, B 83-86, B- 80-82, C+ 77-79, C 73-76, C- 70-72, D+ 67-69, D 60-66, F <60.

COURSE POLICIES:

- **Attendance Policy:** Class attendance is mandatory. 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.
- **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.
- **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. 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

Wk	Date	Topic/Activity	Readings	Due
1	8/27/07	Introduction		
	8/29	What is ethology?	Tinbergen 1963 Kutsukake et al. 2006	
2	9/3/07	No class—Labor Day	M & B: Ch. 1+ 2 P: Ch. 1	
	9/5/07	ZOO: Introduction to primates at San Diego Zoo	Ross & Lukas 2006 Mallapur et al. 2005a	
3	9/10/07	Primate behavioral ecology	P: Ch. 2 (pp.22-26) Schaffner & Aureli 2005	

	9/12/07	ZOO: Preliminary observations & development of research question	Mallapur et al. 2005b Tovar et al. 2005	Pick target species
4	9/17/07	Research design	M & B: Ch. 3 + 4 Rasmussen 1991	
	9/19/07	ZOO: Exercises # 1, 4	DeLathuowers & van Elsacker 2006	
5	9/24/07	Ethograms, Measures of behavior, & Reliability	M & B: Ch. 5, 8 P: Ch. 3 Rosenblum 1978	Initial proposal
	9/26/07	ZOO: Exercises # 2, 5, 12		Exercises 1 & 4
6	10/1/07	Sampling & recording techniques I	M & B: Ch. 6 + 7 P: Ch. 2 (pp.14-22, 26-34) Zinner et al. 1997	
	10/3/07	ZOO: Exercises # 6, 10		Exercises 2, 5, 12
7	10/8/07	Sampling & recording techniques II	Altmann 1974 Cordoni et al. 2006 Mallvarapura et al. 2006	
	10/10/07	ZOO: Exercises # 8, 9, 11		Exercises 6, 10
8	10/15/07	Project design--Methods		
	10/17/07	ZOO: Data collection		Exercises 8, 9, 11 Project proposal
9	10/22/07	Literature review	Davis 2005, Ch. 4	
	10/24/07	ZOO: Data collection		
10	10/29/07	ZOO: Data collection		
	10/31/07	ZOO: Data collection		
11	11/5	Data analysis I	Madrigal 1998	Initial bibliography
	11/7	ZOO: Data collection		
12	11/12	Data analysis II	M & B: Ch.9 Lehner 1996	
	11/14	ZOO: Data collection		
13	11/19	Scientific writing	P: Ch. 5 Hailman & Strier 2005 Davis 2005, App.	

	11/21/07	ZOO: Data collection		Literature review
14	11/27/07	Data work up	Davis 2005, Ch.16	
	11/29/07	Final ZOO day: Data collection		Data work-up
15	12/3/07	Class presentations		
	12/5/07	Class presentations		
	12/12/07	FINAL REPORT & PORTFOLIO DUE		

** For readings: P: Paterson textbook; M & B: Martin & Bateson textbook; otherwise refers to authors of articles placed on Blackboard, under "Readings."

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.