

ANTH348: MONKEY BUSINESS PRIMATE CONSERVATION AND BEHAVIOR

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BOOKS/READINGS: The following book has been assigned for this course and is required for all students. They are available for purchase at the EOU Bookstore.

Primate Behavioral Ecology (third edition), by Karen B. Strier 2007 (Pearson Education Inc)

Supplementary materials will be made available through electronic links. Much of this information will be read in the software platform – Adobe Acrobat - which can be downloaded for free off the internet (see external links for location of site). There may be other readings placed on electronic reserve or in Course Documents from time to time. Always check the Announcements and Discussion forum section on a daily basis.

While there are no prerequisites for this course, it would be helpful for a student to have some 100 or 200 level courses in Anthropology or Sociology.

COURSE DESCRIPTION, OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES:

Non-human primates have been used within numerous disciplines as models for human primates to understand themselves. This extremely diverse mammal group is currently under threat by encroachment and alteration of habitat. Primatology within the discipline of Anthropology is most frequently seen as a study of primate social behaviour and adaptations. This course will bring to the student a clear understanding of the importance of non-human primates to humans through a number of areas including: taxonomical, evolutionary, female and male perspectives, ecology, and conservation. This course will draw mainly from the textbook with enriching material being drawn from websites and various key organizations.

Course Objectives:

The goal of this course is to give the student an understanding about primatological research through an anthropological perspective. The student will study the impact of humans on nonhuman primates and the major insights that primatological field work has brought. Through course readings, discussions and papers, students will become familiar with how primatologists have and currently are studying non-human primates and the large body of research on them.

By the end of this course, the student should be able to:

- ❖ Understand where primatology fits into the larger field of anthropology
- ❖ Know some of the key authors and theoretical perspectives in primatology
- ❖ Be familiar with the methodologies that primatologists employ through the use of case-studies.
- ❖ Know the key organizations in which primatologists are employed

- ❖ Understand the interrelationship between humans and non-human primates from an anthropological perspective
- ❖ Understand the nature of conservation problems and how primatological research can aid in bringing a deeper understanding to these problems with potential solutions.

Be sure to express yourself in the discussion forums. These forums are for you to ask questions and gain further depth into areas where your understanding is lacking. Argue intelligently with the professor and the other students. As the study of the nonhuman primates encompasses a wide range of disciplines, please feel free to give your view or interpretation based on your experiences.

ASSIGNMENTS, GRADES AND ASSESSMENT: The grade you obtain from this course will depend on your writing ability, critical thinking ability and participation in the discussion forums. There are four short essays every other week and one final long essay due in the final eighth week. In week 8, you will be required to hand-in a preliminary summary of the topic and some key references you will be using for the final long essay to ensure that you are on the right track for the final essay. In addition, you must participate actively in discussion forums weekly. The grade assessments are as follows:

Short Essays (in weeks 2, 4, and 7 with 10% for each short essay) – 30%

Participation in Forum – 30%

Preliminary Preparation for Final Long Essay – 10%

Final Long Essay - 30%

The short essays will be based on the readings from the text and will allow the student to synthesize the additional readings in a critical and succinct manner. These essays will be around 1000 words each. The purpose of these essays is for you to improve your writing and critical thinking skills. The longer essay will be a research paper based on the approval of your preliminary preparation for the final long essay. I will give clear and further instructions on both the short and long essays once the course has started.

The evaluation of the essays will be based upon style/format and content. Standard essay format is expected with an introduction containing a statement of intent for the essay, well-developed main points of discussion which clearly relate back to the statement of intent, and a summary conclusion. The essays should be free of editorial errors and contain a recognized referencing/documentation/sourcing format. The content should be a clear reflection on your working knowledge of the course material. As this is a third year course, there is the expectation you are able to synthesis material from the variety of sources available to produce well-formed ideas and discussions in your essay. Avoid use of first person and keep writing tight, concise and mature.

Discussion Forum: This rubrix below evaluating the quantity and quality of your participation in the discussion forum will be utilized.

Promptness and Initiative	Does not respond to most postings; rarely participates freely	Responds to most postings several days after initial discussion; limited initiative	Responds to most postings within a 24 hour period; requires occasional prompting to post	Consistently responds to postings in less than 24 hours; demonstrates good self-initiative
Delivery of Post	Utilizes poor spelling and grammar in most posts; posts appear "hasty"	Errors in spelling and grammar evidenced in several posts	Few grammatical or spelling errors are noted in posts	Consistently uses grammatically correct posts with rare misspellings
Relevance of Post	Posts topics which do not relate to the discussion content; makes short or irrelevant remarks	Occasionally posts off topic; most posts are short in length and offer no further insight into the topic	Frequently posts topics that are related to discussion content; prompts further discussion of topic	Consistently posts topics related to discussion topic; cites additional references related to topic
Expression Within the Post	Does not express opinions or ideas clearly; no connection to topic	Unclear connection to topic evidenced in minimal expression of opinions or ideas	Opinions and ideas are stated clearly with occasional lack of connection to topic	Expresses opinions and ideas in a clear and concise manner with obvious connection to topic
Contribution to the Learning Community	Does not make effort to participate in learning community as it develops; seems indifferent	Occasionally makes meaningful reflection on group's efforts; marginal effort to become involved with	Frequently attempts to direct the discussion and to present relevant viewpoints for consideration by group;	Aware of needs of community; frequently attempts to motivate the group discussion; presents creative

		group	interacts freely	approaches to topic
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Grading scale: 90-100% = A
 80-89% = B
 70-79% = C
 60-69% = D
 below 60% = F

STUDENT OBLIGATIONS:

- a) Students are expected to participate “in class” every week. As this is a third year class, I will assume that you are a responsible person who takes your studies seriously and is in this class to learn about the nonhuman primates. The forum participation is a quarter of your overall mark, and will be based on your regular contributions to all major discussions. If you are silent or invisible during the first half of the course, you will not be able to “catch up” in the second half and earn all the points. So do participate on a regular basis.

- b) Students are expected to be diligent about reading the Announcements section of the course. You will be responsible for keeping up with announcements, assignments, and any changes, additions, or deletions made to this course as we go along. Read the announcements every day!

- c) Students are expected to know and to meet deadlines for written assignments. The assignments will have specific due dates--if you are unable to meet one of the deadlines (for a legitimate reason), please email me before the deadline to inform me your assignment will be late. If you do NOT notify me of late assignments in advance, I will still accept them, but you will lose 25 percent of points for the longer essays, and 50 percent of points for reaction papers.

FORUM DECORUM: In discussion forums, remember to think, discuss, and debate as anthropologists. This means that both the professor and the students will use language that is scholarly and professional, reflecting the fact that we are trying to achieve a greater understanding of the human condition. Learn to express yourself clearly and accurately, and in an intellectual rather than personal fashion. Develop awareness of your own ethnocentrism and make conscious efforts to ameliorate it. Ensure to understand the subtleties of these new terms to gain a deep understanding of the new material being presented. Also, be conscious of the language you use to talk about race, ethnicity, and gender. Be careful to avoid any bigoted or exclusive language.

Students who express themselves inappropriately or attack others personally in the discussion forums will lose their points for participation. Most students are considerate and respectful of others, but every now and then, someone is abusive and it ruins the experience for everyone. So think carefully before you submit contributions to the discussions.

Statement on Academic Misconduct: Eastern Oregon University places a high value upon the integrity of its student scholars. Any student found guilty of an act of academic misconduct (including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, or theft of an examination or supplies) may be subject to having his or her grade reduced in the course in question, being placed on probation or suspended from the University, or being expelled from the University—or a combination of these. Please see Student Handbook at:

<http://www.eou.edu/saffairs/handbook/honest.html>

Statement on Americans with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability or suspect that you have a learning problem and need accommodations, please contact the Disability Services Program in Loso Hall 234. Telephone: 962-3081.

If you remain in the course after reviewing this syllabus, I will assume you have read it carefully and understand the mechanics and objectives of the course. Welcome to *Exploring Nonhuman Primates - the WEB edition!*

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 – Introduction and Taxonomy

Readings: Strier (2007) Chapter 1: Introduction to Primate Studies; Chapter 2: Traits, Trends, and Taxonomy.

Week 2 – Evolution of Primates and Social Behavior

Readings: Strier (2007) Chapter 3: Primates Past to Present; Chapter 4: Evolution and Social Behavior

Short essay #1 due end of this week by Sunday midnight

Week 3 – Sex and Eating

Readings: Strier (2007) Chapter 5: Evolution and Sex; Chapter 6 (Food, Foraging, and Females)

Week 4 – Female and Male Strategies

Readings: Strier (2007) Chapter 7: Female Strategies; Chapter 8: Male Strategies

Short essay #2 due at the end of this week by Sunday midnight

Week 5 – Life Stages and Communication

Readings: Strier (2007) Chapter 9: Developmental Stages though the Life Span; Chapter 10: Communication and Cognition

Week 6 – Intelligence and Community Ecology

Readings: Strier (2007) Chapter 11: Community Ecology, and other readings to be announced.

Week 7 - Human- Nonhuman Primate Interactions and Conservation I

Readings: Strier (2007) Chapter 12: Conservation, and other readings to be announced

Short essay #3 due at the end of this week by Sunday midnight

Week 8 - Human- Nonhuman Primate Interactions and Conservation II

Readings: readings to be announced

Week 9 - Human- Nonhuman Primate Interactions and Conservation III

Readings: readings to be announced

Preliminary preparation for final long essay due at the end of this week by Sunday midnight

Week 10 – Wrap-Up and Conclusions

No new readings

Final long essay due at end of this week by Sunday midnight