

Human Biology/Anthropology 306
Primate Behavior and Ecology

Lecture schedule

Readings

Week 1

Jan 9/11: Introduction; What is a primate?

S1

Week 2

Jan 18: Evolutionary principles (Jan 16 MLK Jr. Day)

S4-5

Week 3

Jan 23/25: Species concepts; Taxonomy: Strepsirhines

S2

Week 4

Jan 30/Feb 1: Taxonomy: Anthropoids

S2

Week 5

Feb 6/8: Taxonomy: Hominoids; Chimpanzee Hunting

Week 6

Feb 13: More chimpanzee biology

tba

pdfs

W Feb 15: MIDTERM 1

Week 7

Feb 22: Chimpanzee biology; Conservation (Feb 20 Pres. Day)

S6

Week 8

Feb 27/Mar 1: Research Methods; Primate diets

S11

Week 9

Mar 6/8: Feeding competition & Ranging, Mating strategies

S7-8

March 13 – 17: Spring Break

Week 10

Mar 20/ 22: Dominance, Aggression and Infanticide
Politics

Chimpanzee

Week 11

Mar 27/29: Mothers, Infants, Play

S9

Wed March 29: MIDTERM 2

Week 12

Apr 3/5: Cognition and language

S10

Week 13

Apr 10/12: Tool use, Culture and Conservation
Without Apes

S12, *Planet*

Week 14

Apr 17/19: Apes and Dolphins compared

Week 15

Apr 24/26 – Conclusions and Review

FINAL EXAM TBA

Human Biology (also Anthropology) 306

Primate Social Behavior and Ecology

Course Content and Objectives: This is an intermediate level course providing a comprehensive overview of the field of primatology. We begin by surveying the Primate order, and then consider theoretical questions confronting the field in the 21st century to familiarize you with the major issues and prepare you for the more advanced courses. We take a strongly Darwinian approach, and we seek to link ecological influences to behavior, with obvious implications for the origins of human behavior. The class meets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2-3:20 in AHF B10 conference room.

The course is limited in size that we can have class participation, and we will have a mixture of lecture and discussion. We use Blackboard for posting announcements, but my lecture powerpoints are *not* posted on Blackboard or available to students.

Office hours: I hold office hours on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1-2 (or by appointment) in the Jane Goodall Center, Hancock (AHF) B10; my office is across the hall from the classroom. Enter Hancock by the front door, cross the lobby and walk down the corridor to the right. Take the first stairwell to the basement and turn left. My office voicemail is (213) 740-1918 but e-mail is always the best way to reach me for questions or an appointment: stanford@usc.edu.

You can also follow my occasional primate-related postings and other rants on twitter @craigstanford7.

Textbooks: *Primate Behavioral Ecology*, by K. Strier (**Fifth edition**, ISBN 978-1-138-95436-6 (paperback); ISBN 978-1-315-65712-7 (e-book) – do not buy the earlier editions. This text should be used as your source of information to supplement the material presented in class. We will also read *Planet Without Apes* (by Stanford, 2012, Harvard U. Press) and *Chimpanzee Politics*, by de Waal (1982, Johns Hopkins Press). I may also send you pdfs of papers to read during the semester. You can buy all of these online quite easily.

Grading: Grading will be done on a total points accumulated basis as follows:

Midterm 1	30 %
Midterm 2	30 %
Final exam	25 %
Zoo project	5%

Class attendance/participation= 10 %

For the zoo research project you must provide your own transportation to the zoo (also accessible by public transit) and pay your own admission (\$18). It will consist of a half day research project on the observation and recording of primate behavior and will be due on the day of the final exam. We'll discuss this as the semester proceeds.

Attendance will be taken in lecture on random dates, and your lecture attendance will impact your grade. Progressive improvement on exams during the semester will also be taken into account.

A note about cell phones/social media in class: in a small class, using your phone or being on social media in your laptop is distracting to those around you. If in my judgment your cell phone/social media use is at all a distraction to the class or to me, I reserve the right to remove the record of your attendance in class that day from my attendance records.

Examinations: All regularly scheduled exams will be a mixture of objective (multiple-choice, T-F and fill-in) and short essay questions. Make-up exams will be given only if you have a written, official university excuse, health or activity - related. Be aware that the Health Clinic no longer dispenses medical excuses automatically. No early exams will be given. Students who are officially excused from scheduled exams will take a make-up administered no more than one week after the class exam date. This makeup will cover the same material, but in a long essay format.

Note about exams: Letter grades are not assigned on midterms but the mean score and standard distribution will be announced. Your final course grade is based on a normal distribution curve of the cumulative exam point total, with emphasis given to class participation and exam grade improvement during the semester. Because of the curve, students will occasionally receive a final grade that is either slightly higher or lower than any of their 3 exam grades alone predict.

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism – presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Section 11, *Behavior Violating University Standards* <https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/>.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the *Office of Equity and Diversity* <http://equity.usc.edu/> or to the *Department of Public Safety* <http://capsnet.usc.edu/departments/departments-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us>. This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. *The Center for Women and Men* <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/> provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage sarc@usc.edu describes reporting options and other resources.

Support Systems

A number of USC's schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the *American Language Institute* <http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali>, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. *The Office of Disability Services and Programs* http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, *USC Emergency Information* <http://emergency.usc.edu/> will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.