

**Human Biology/Anthropology 306
Primate Social Behavior and Ecology**

Lecture schedule

Readings

Week 1

M Jan 11: Introduction and perspective
W Jan 13: What is a primate?

S1

Week 2

M Jan 18: MLK Jr. Day, No Class
W Jan 20: Evolutionary principles

S4-5

Week 3

M Jan 25: Species concepts
W Jan 27: Primate taxonomy - Strepsirhines

S2

Week 4

M Feb 1: Primate taxonomy – New World Monkeys
W Feb 3: Primate taxonomy – Old World Monkeys

S2

Week 5

M Feb 8: Primate taxonomy – the Apes
W Feb 10: Chimpanzee Hunting Behavior

Week 6

M Feb 15: Presidents' Day, No Class
W Feb 17: **MIDTERM 1**

pdfs tba

Week 7

M Feb 22: Great ape conservation
W Feb 24: The New Chimpanzees video

S6

Week 8

M Feb 29: Doing Primate Behavior Research
W Mar 2: Primate diets

S11,
Chimpanzee Politics

Week 9

M Mar 7: Feeding competition & Ranging
W Mar 9: Female and Male mating strategies

S7-8

March 14–18th: Spring Break

Week 10

M Mar 21: Dominance
W Mar 23: Aggression and Infanticide

pdfs tba

Week 11

M Mar 28: **MIDTERM 2**
W Mar 30: Mothers, Infants, and Play/Video

S9

Week 12

M Apr 4: Cognition and language
W Apr 6: Video – Chimpanzees, an Unnatural History

S10

Week 13

M Apr 11: Tool use and Culture
W Apr 13: Conservation

S12

Week 14

M Apr 18: Video – Apes and Dolphins
W Apr 20: Beautiful Minds

Planet without Apes

Week 15

M Apr 25: Conclusions and review
W Apr 27: **MIDTERM 3**

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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 in the basement of Hancock.

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 on twitter @craigstanford7.

Textbooks: *Primate Behavioral Ecology* (**Fourth edition**) – 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 %
Midterm 3 = 30 %
Class attendance and participation= 10 %

I also offer you an extra-credit opportunity to conduct a mini-research project at the LA Zoo, which has a very good collection of primates. This project will be optional and you must provide your own transportation to the zoo and pay your own admission. The extra-credit project can boost your grade by up to one third of a letter grade (from B to B+ or A- to A, etc.). It cannot lower your grade. 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 in class: in a small class, using your phone is distracting to those around, please try not to. If in my judgment your cell phone use is at all a distraction, 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 longer 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.

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

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/department/department-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.