

Human Biology (HBIO) 306: Primate Behavior and Ecology**Details:** Mon & Wed 2-3:20pm, AHF B10**Professor:** Dr. Stephanie Bogart
Office: AHF (Hancock), Jane Goodall Center, B10-B
Email: sbogart@usc.edu
Office Hours: Tue and Thur 10-11:50am

Course Content: 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 ecology and behavior, with implications for the origins of human behavior. You will complete several assignments to engage and strengthen your learning. Further a major research project will allow you to choose a topic or species to explore in-depth using primary references. This course will combine both lecture and guided discussions sessions over specific readings.

- To obtain a core knowledge base in human evolution including a mastery of theoretical and empirical approaches in evolutionary biology, biological anthropology, and comparative primate behavioral ecology.
- To demonstrate understanding of ecological and evolutionary processes as well as the implications these processes have for the evolution of humans and their biology.
- To understand and apply the scientific method and develop critical thinking skills from an evolutionary framework along with the ability to apply knowledge to new information and data, as well as the capacity to effectively communicate the principles of evolution and its application to human biology.
- To provide sufficient depth of knowledge and skill for entry-level employment in a wide variety of fields, or for graduate study in human evolutionary biology-related disciplines.

Required Textbooks:

Primate Behavioral Ecology by Karen Strier, 5th edition 2016, ISBN 1138954365

Primate Ethnographies by Karen Strier (editor), 2017 (1st edition), ISBN 0205214665

Grading: 10% - Participation
20% - Assignments (labs, cladograms, assignments)
20% - Midterm 1
20% - Midterm 2
20% - Research project
10% - Zoo evaluation

Participation:

- You will be graded on your participation during class discussions of assigned readings from the Primate Ethnographies book.

Assignments:

- You will be examining primate skeletons to fill out an assignment to be used in developing three cladograms for the representative primate clades: Strepsirhines, tarsiers and monkeys, and apes.
- An exercise in collecting behavioral data will be completed and turned in

Research Project:

- Focused literary research on a specific topic or species.
- 5-7-page paper using 6 primary references
- Project check in required Week 12

Zoo Evaluation:

- Visit any zoo or primate facility to evaluate a primate species with regards to their welfare. You will use interviews, signage, and behavioral methods to make your final assessments using the knowledge gained in this course.
- 2-page report on animal welfare in a zoo setting

Late Assignments: Students who submit work up to one week late will receive a penalty of 10% applied to the grade achieved on the late assignment regardless of the day of the week on which the work is submitted. Students who submit the project more than one week late will receive a grade of 0 unless they have made prior arrangements with the instructor.

USC's Statements 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.

SCHEDULE (*Subject to revision*)

| | Topic | Readings & Assignments |
|---|---|---|
| Week 1: Jan 8 & 10 | What is a Primate? Taxonomy | PBE 1 & 2 |
| Week 2: Jan 15 & 17 | NO CLASS MON Evolution of primates | PBE 3 & 4, Ethno 1 |
| Week 3: Jan 22 & 24 | Strepsirhines Strepsirhine lab | PBE 2, Ethno 4 Cladogram 1 due |
| Week 4: Jan 29 & 31 | Monkeys Tarsier and Monkey lab | PBE 2, Ethno 6 Cladogram 2 due |
| Week 5: Feb 5 & 7 | Apes Ape lab | PBE 2, Ethno 11 Cladogram 3 due |
| Week 6: Feb 12 & 14 | Sociality and REVIEW | PBE 4, Ethno 7 & 10 |
| Week 7: Feb 19 & 21 | NO CLASS MON Midterm 1 | |
| Week 8: Feb 26 & 28 | Studying primates Primate behavior data | Ethno 2, 3, 5 Behavior assignment |
| Week 9: Mar 5 & 7 | Mating & Foraging Female strategies | PBE 5 & 6, Ethno 8 & 13 PBE 7, Ethno 17 |
| Week 10: Mar 12 & 14 | Spring Break – NO CLASS | |
| Week 11: Mar 19 & 21 | Male strategies Life Histories | PBE 8, Ethno 16 & 18 PBE 9, Ethno 15 |
| Week 12: Mar 26 & 28 | Communication & cognition Project Check-in required | PBE 10, Ethno 12 |
| Week 13: Apr 2 & 4 | Community ecology | PBE 11, Ethno 9, 14, & 21 |
| Week 14: Apr 9 & 11 | Conservation | PBE 12, Ethno 19 & 20 |
| Week 15: Apr 16 & 18 | Video & Project Due | |
| Week 16: Apr 23 & 25 | Review and Midterm 2 | |
| Zoo evaluation due Monday, May 7th by 2pm | | |