

Information, Syllabus, and Assignments***Faculty Instructor***

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Information***Class Schedule and Location***

Class Schedule: Monday and Wednesday from 03:50 – 05:10 p.m.
Class Location: Social & Behavioral Sciences Building, N-501

Course Goals

Introduction to the concepts and practical skills needed to conduct scientific work particularly in the study of primates, including how to collect and analyze data focussing on habitat description, primate densities, use of space, and social interactions. Topics include design and presentation of research; ecological field methods; behavioral observations, and other techniques. Students are required to plan a small research study and to present their proposal in class. Some computer work outside of class required.

Prerequisite

ANP 120 or BIO 201

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance at all lectures is strongly advised for those seeking to do well in the course. Unexcused absences from exams, quizzes, and class presentations will be detrimental to course grades.

Electronic Devices

Please secure and turn off all electronic communications and entertainment devices during lectures and labs. Use of any of such devices during an examination may lead to an accusation of academic dishonesty.

Required Reading

There is no textbook, but there is a required course-pack sold in the main office of the Department of Anthropology, SBS Bldg 5th floor. Price: 36.- \$

Course Web Page

The course web page is located at <<http://blackboard.sunysb.edu>>. In order to log into this website, you will need your blackboard user name and password. Your user name is the same as your sparky user name (which is normally your first initial, and the first 7 letters of your last name). ***Your password is your 9 digit Solar ID.*** If you don't know your user name or experience problems, go to one of the following SINC Sites to look up your user name on the account request terminals: Computing Center Room 138; Main Library Room S1460; Student Union Room 080; HSC Library 3rd floor. You can also call (631-632-9602), visit the web page <<http://www.sinc.sunysb.edu/Help/bbstudent.html>>, or send an e-mail <helpme@ic.sunysb.edu>. If you used Blackboard before (Fall 02, Spring 03, Summer 03), your password remained the same.

The course web page currently contains the syllabus. It will be used to post all handouts, the most important lecture notes, tasks/ data for homework and announcements/ reminders. Please note that lecture notes will cover only the major aspects of a lecture and cannot substitute attendance.

Grading Policy

Course Grading

The overall course grade will be based on five components, each of which is obligatory and must be done to pass the course:

2 exams	50%	of grade
surprise quizzes	10%	of grade
homework	10%	of grade
research proposal	15%	of grade
presentation	15%	of grade

Exams

Each exam consists of questions taken from readings and lectures. Each exam will consist of a mix of multiple choice, true-false, and short answer questions. In addition, there will be at least one essay question. Both exams must be taken, as each covers a specific portion of the course. The second exam covers mostly the second half of the course, but is also related to some basic background taught during the first half. You will be allotted 80 minutes for each of the exams. You will be allowed to leave the room after 45 minutes have elapsed. Note that once the first student has left, you will not be allowed to enter the classroom, i.e., if you are too late, you will not be able to take the exam. Exams will be administered on the following days:

midterm exam	October 22, 03:50 - 05:10 p.m.
<i>final exam</i>	<i>December 17, 11:00 - 01:30 p.m.</i>

Surprise Quizzes

Quizzes (4-6) take place during the first minutes of a class (on a surprise basis). Questions require short answers and cover readings of the day, but may also draw upon basic knowledge from previous classes. Your final quiz grade will be based on your top scores, i.e., the weakest score will not be taken into account.

Academic Dishonesty

Any instance of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Academic Judiciary Committee and will result in an F for the course. Academic dishonesty includes any act that is designed to obtain fraudulently, either for oneself or for someone else, academic credit, grades, or other recognition that is not properly earned or that adversely affects another's grade. This includes, but is not confined to, cheating on exams or quizzes, and plagiarizing homework or term papers.

Make up exams

There will be no make up exams or quizzes. Written proof of illness on letterhead from student health services, from a medical practitioner or from a hospital/clinic will be accepted as a valid excuse for missing an exam/quiz. The health authority on the letter will be contacted to verify your information.

Extra Credit

No extra credit projects will be assigned.

Personal Conditions

If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services, ECC (Educational Communications Center) Building, room 128, (631) 632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential. Students requiring emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and Disability Support Services. For procedures and information, go to the following web site: <<http://www.ehs.sunysb.edu/fire/disabilities/asp>>

Assignments

Homework

At the end of some of the classes (cf. syllabus) you will be asked to apply the methods discussed in class to particular data sets. The tasks will require some computation (spreadsheets), graphical representation of results and interpretation of results (based on specific questions). Results should be submitted as hardcopies. Electronic submission will not be accepted.

- **Homework is due one week after the assignment before the start of the class (cf. syllabus).**

Research Proposal

Students will be asked to plan and design a small research study based on a single research question. Because a research question often can be approached by various means, there will be **no single, true answer**. Instead you are asked to independently research the background of the question in the existing literature on primates (or other animals, if you like) and to apply your knowledge gained from readings and in class to find **one potential solution** that may solve the riddle. At the end of the semester you are asked to submit your work in form of a research proposal integrating an introduction to the background of the study question, a research plan, the expected results and the proposed significance of the study. If you are uncertain whether your approach is appropriate, please feel free to ask me and to discuss the issue. Research questions with detailed instructions will be assigned at the beginning of the 4th week of classes (Monday, September 22).

- **The research proposal is due on Monday, December 01 at the beginning of the class.**

Hints for Literature Search: To conduct research on your research question, you will need to find relevant scientific articles. Stony Brook's libraries maintain all major journals of Primatology (American Journal of Primatology, American Journal of Physical Anthropology, Evolutionary Anthropology, Folia Primatologica, International Journal of Primatology, Primates) or Behavior & Ecology (Animal Behaviour, Behavioral Ecology, Behavioral Ecology & Sociobiology, Behaviour, Ethology). All but IJP (Health Science Library) are located in the Science & Engineering Library (2nd floor) or the main stacks (3rd floor) in the Frank Melville Jr. Library. In order to quickly find relevant papers, you may wish to use the major internet site of primatological literature PrimateLit <<http://primatelit.library.wisc.edu/>>. This database is a collaborative project of the Wisconsin Regional Primate Research Center, the Washington Regional Primate Research Center and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries. Search of references is free. Other searches are possible via the Libraries on the West Campus <<http://www.sunysb.edu/library/>> and East Campus <<http://www.hsclib.sunysb.edu/>>. Both web pages provide access to electronic journals and powerful literature search engines.

Presentation of Research Project

You will be asked to present your research proposal during the last two meetings (December 8 and 10). Presentation is supposed to be **formal**, i.e., as if the project would be presented at a conference or to the panel of a granting agency. Each presentation is limited to **10 minutes** per student followed by a discussion of the presentation and its content. Exact date and time of each presentation will be determined by random numbers and will be assigned together with the research question (on Monday, September 22).

Syllabus

Week		Lecture Topics	Reading	Other
W	Sep 03	Introduction to the course and its objectives		
M	08	Scientific approach in behavior studies	#1	
W	10	Research design	#2	
M	15	Data & descriptive statistics	#3	
W	17	Nonparametric Testing	#4	homework#1
M	22	Research proposals & reports	#5	
W	24	Scientific presentation	#6	HW#1 due
M	29	Overview of living primates	#7	
W	Oct 01	Primates as study subjects	#8	
M	06	YOM KIPPUR (no class)		
W	08	Primate habitats and climate	#9	homework#2
M	13	Habitat description	#10	
W	15	Phenology	#11	HW#2 due
M	20	Review		
W	Oct 22	Midterm Exam, 03:50 – 05:10 p.m.		
M	27	Identifying primates	#12	
W	29	Estimating primate densities	#13	
M	Nov 03	Introduction to behavioral observations	#14	homework#3
W	05	Recording methods and equipment	#15	
M	10	Recording behavior and interobserver agreement	#16	HW#3 due
W	12	Principles of navigation	#17	
M	17	Use of space of primates	#18	homework#4
W	19	Use of space – nocturnal primates	#19	
M	24	Interaction matrices and sociograms	#20	HW#4 due
W	26	Dominance interactions, relationships, hierarchies	#21	
M	Dec 01	Guidelines for the treatment of animals	#22	ResProp due
W	03	Review		
M	08	Presentation of research proposals I.		Presentation
W	10	Presentation of research proposals II.		Presentation
W	Dec 17	Final Exam, 11:00 – 01:30 p.m.		

Reading Assignments**#1: Scientific approach in behavior studies**

From: Paterson JD (2001) Primate behavior. An exercise workbook. 2nd ed, Waveland Press, Prospect Heights, pp 4-17 (parts of chapters 1 & 2: Introduction to observation of nonhuman primate behavior & Methodology in primate observation)

#2: Research design

From: Martin P, Bateson P (1993) Measuring behaviour. An introductory guide. 2nd ed, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, pp 25-38 (parts of chapter 3: Research design)

#3: Data & descriptive statistics

White L, Edwards A (2000) Chapter 4. An introduction to data analysis and interpretation. In White L, Edwards A (eds) Conservation research in the African rain forests a technical handbook. Wildlife Conservation Society, New York, pp 31-51

#4: Nonparametric Testing

From: Martin P, Bateson P (1993) Measuring behaviour. An introductory guide. 2nd ed, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, pp 125-147 (chapter 9: Analysis and interpretation of data)

#5: Research proposals & reports

From: Paterson JD (2001) Primate behavior. An exercise workbook. 2nd ed, Waveland Press, Prospect Heights, pp 64-75 (chapter 5: The preparation of scientific reports. A beginner's guide)

From: Davis M (1997) Scientific papers and presentations. Academic Press, San Diego, pp 43-55 (chapter 5: The proposal)

#6: Scientific presentations

From: Davis M (1997) Scientific papers and presentations. Academic Press, San Diego, pp 157-185 (chapters 16 & 17: The slide presentation & Poster presentations)

#7: Overview of living primates

From: Boyd R, Silk JB (2000) How humans evolved. WW Norton, New York, pp 137-161 (parts of chapter 5: Introduction to the primates)

#8: Primates as study subjects

From: Strier KB (2000) Primate behavioral ecology. Allyn and Bacon, Boston, pp 8-34 (parts of chapter 1: Introduction to primate studies)

#9: Primate habitats and climate

From: Richard AF (1985) Primates in nature. WH Freeman, New York, pp 44-66

Edwards A, White L (2000) Chapter 7. Methods for recording the weather. In White L, Edwards A (eds) Conservation research in the African rain forests a technical handbook. Wildlife Conservation Society, New York, pp 85-92

#10: Habitat description

White L, Edwards A (2000) Chapter 9. Vegetation inventory and description. In White L, Edwards A (eds) Conservation research in the African rain forests a technical handbook. Wildlife Conservation Society, New York, pp 119-146

#11: Phenology

From: White L, Edwards A (2000) Chapter 9. Vegetation inventory and description. In White L, Edwards A (eds) Conservation research in the African rain forests a technical handbook. Wildlife Conservation Society, New York, pp 152-155

Newton PN (1988) The structure and phenology of a moist deciduous forest in the Central Indian Highlands. Vegetatio 75:3-16

#12: Identifying primates

National Research Council (U.S.) (1981) Techniques for the study of primate population ecology. National Academy Press, Washington DC, pp 81-127 (chapter 5: Techniques for sexing and aging primates)

#13: Estimating primate densities

National Research Council (U.S.) (1981) Techniques for the study of primate population ecology. National Academy Press, Washington DC, pp 36-79 (chapter 4: Census methods for estimating densities)

#14: Introduction to behavioral observations

From: Paterson JD (2001) Primate behavior. An exercise workbook. 2nd ed, Waveland Press, Prospect Heights, pp 36-43 (part of chapter 3: Defining and coding behavior)

From: Martin P, Bateson P (1993) Measuring behaviour. An introductory guide. 2nd ed, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, pp 56-69 (parts of chapters 4 & 5: Preliminaries to measurement & Measures of behaviour)

#15: Recording methods and equipment

Martin P, Bateson P (1993) Measuring behaviour. An introductory guide. 2nd ed, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, pp 84-100 (chapter 6: Recording methods)

From: Paterson JD (2001) Primate behavior. An exercise workbook. 2nd ed, Waveland Press, Prospect Heights, pp 17-22, 44-47 (parts of chapters 2 & 3)

#16: Recording behavior and interobserver agreement

From: Lehner PN (1996) Handbook of ethological methods. 2nd ed, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, pp 210-221 (parts of chapter 8: Data collection methods)

#17: Principles of navigation

Edwards A, White L (2000) Chapter 6. Maps, compasses, GPS units and the principals of navigation. In White L, Edwards A (eds) Conservation research in the African rain forests a technical handbook. Wildlife Conservation Society, New York, pp 63-83

#18: Use of space of primates

Marsh CW (1981) Ranging behaviour and its relation to diet selection in Tana River Red colobus (*Colobus badius rufomitratatus*): J Zool Lond 195:473-492

#19: Use of space - nocturnal primates

Schülke O, Kappeler PM (2003) So near and yet so far: territorial pairs but low cohesion between pair partners in a nocturnal lemur, *Phaner furcifer*. Anim Behav 65:331-343

#20: Interaction matrices and sociograms

Hinde RA (1976) Interactions, relationships and social structure. Man 11:1-17

From: Paterson JD (2001) Primate behavior. An exercise workbook. 2nd ed, Waveland Press, Prospect Heights, pp 173-178 (Exercise 13: Analytical structures)

#21: Dominance interactions, relationships, hierarchies

From: Lehner PN (1996) Handbook of ethological methods. 2nd ed, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, pp 326-335 (parts of chapter 10: Selected examples of data collection)

#22: Guidelines for the treatment of animals

Anonymous (2002) Guidelines for the treatment of animals in behavioural research and teaching. Anim Behav 63:195-199