

**University of Calgary  
Department of Anthropology and Archaeology**



**Congo, chimpanzee (1954-1964)**

**ANTH311 – Spring 2017  
Primate Behaviour**

*In this course, we will cover the fundamentals of primate behaviour research and theory. We will cover the topics such as primate evolution, social dynamics, dominance, aggression, sexual behaviour, cognition and communication among primates. You will learn primate taxonomy and apply these concepts to conceptualize and describe genetic, ecological and behavioural variation exhibited across primate groups.*

**Instructor:** Dejana Nikitovic

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## **Welcome to ANTH311,**

### **Primate Behaviour**

**Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Calgary**

Please read the course syllabus carefully. A syllabus is a *learning contract*. It contains everything you need to know about the logistic of a course. When you have questions, the syllabus is the **FIRST** place you should look for answers.

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**Course Instructor:** Dejana Nikitovic, PhD  
**Email:** [dejana.nikitovic@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dejana.nikitovic@ucalgary.ca)

**Instructor Office Hours:** Thursday's, Room ES 602J, or by appointment  
*I will arrive 10 min before most classes. This is great opportunity to ask quick questions you might have.*  
**Map:**  
[http://ucmapspro.ucalgary.ca/RoomFinder/?Building=ES&Room=602J&thickbox=1&TB\\_iframe=true&height=600&width=980](http://ucmapspro.ucalgary.ca/RoomFinder/?Building=ES&Room=602J&thickbox=1&TB_iframe=true&height=600&width=980)

**Lectures:** Tuesday's and Thursday's, 9:00-11:45,  
Room KNB 126  
**Map:**  
[http://ucmapspro.ucalgary.ca/RoomFinder/?Building=KNB&Room=126&thickbox=1&TB\\_iframe=true&height=600&width=980](http://ucmapspro.ucalgary.ca/RoomFinder/?Building=KNB&Room=126&thickbox=1&TB_iframe=true&height=600&width=980)  
**LECTURES begin Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

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## 1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, we will cover the fundamentals of primate behaviour research and theory. It includes evolution, social dynamics, socio-biology, socio-ecology, dominance, aggression, kinship, sexual behaviour, reproductive strategies, cognition, and communication. You will learn primate taxonomy and be able to apply these concepts to conceptualize and describe genetic, ecological and behavioural variation exhibited across primate groups.

## 2. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon the successful completion of ANTH311, you will be able to:

- a) Explain the history and motives behind primate studies in terms of understanding human evolution and species variation.
- b) Recognize features and hypotheses associated with the origin and the primate pattern.
- c) Identify primate taxonomy and characteristics unique to each taxonomic group.
- d) Distinguish between the different elements of primate socio-ecology, social groups and factors that contribute to group variation, including female and male reproductive strategies and their influence on social organization.
- e) Describe the principles of natural and sexual selection.
- f) Discuss characteristics associated with stages of primate lifecycle.
- g) Explain how primates share information with each other through four modes of communication, as well as how they interact with non-primate species.
- h) Identify threats to primate populations and organizations involved in the development of conservation policies.

## 3. TEXTBOOK AND REQUIRED READINGS

Strier K. 2015. *Primate Behavioral Ecology*. 5<sup>th</sup> edition. London: Routledge.

**NOTE: While 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the textbook may be used, you will have to check for differences in content because lectures and exams will be based on the 5<sup>th</sup> edition!!!!**



**PRIMATE TAXONOMY CHART PROVIDED IN THE SYLLABUS (page 10) replaces the chart from the Strier textbook (pg. 52-53). The chart provided in the syllabus is more current and widely used.**

The textbook is available for purchase from the UofC Bookstore. **Additional readings may be posted on the course website on D2L or from the University of Calgary Library.** The library has great online and in-person resources to assist students in finding journal articles, searching article databases, and conducting research. I strongly encourage you to attend workshops and seminars throughout the year to get the support you need to develop your research skills. Our designated librarian is Sandra Lipton ([lipton@ucalgary.ca](mailto:lipton@ucalgary.ca); TFDL 530C).

#### 4. ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE - Please read carefully!

**4.1 Lectures:** Class will meet two times a week for 2:45 h long lectures. We will normally take two 5-10 minutes breaks during the class. Sometimes, we will take one longer break, depending on the lecture content. The lectures and videos showed in lectures will complement readings, although I will often provide a contrasting interpretations or perspectives.



Arrive for class on time, with your readings, notes and any assigned materials on hand. Be ready to contribute to the discussion by having read assigned material in advance of class.

**Your active participation in discussions is vital to the success of the course – each of you contributes to our collective learning!** *Being prepared for class and participating in lectures will make the course more interesting, relevant, and fun.*



There is some overlap in the lectures, required readings and the films. However, you are responsible for any material in the textbook whether it is discussed in lectures or not.

**4.2 Lecture Notes:** Lecture slides will be posted on D2L before each class. Please keep in mind that posted slides are NOT sufficient without the readings and the lectures. They should augment, not substitute attending the class and in-class note taking.



To improve your note taking skills, see the “Note Taking” presentation posted on D2L.

**4.3 Desire2Learn (D2L):** Consult the course website regularly for announcements, readings, handouts, lecture slides and study guides.

**Use the D2L “Discussion Forums” for ALL content related questions.** Before posting a question, please make sure that it has not already been addressed in the course outline or on D2L (announcements or discussion forums). The discussion forums are moderated by the instructor. Please allow two business days (48 hours) for a response to your posted questions.



Use “Discussion Forums” to post your question, discuss course content, share information relevant to the course and biological anthropology in general, and share your ideas with classmates. This way, all students will have access to the same information when preparing for assignment and exams.

**HOW TO:** To learn how to post a new question or reply to already posted messages, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K4xX1PA9bw>

## 5. EVALUATION

Your understanding of the course content and concepts will be assessed as follows:

Midterm #1 (held in lecture on Tuesday, May 30 <sup>th</sup> )	30%
Midterm #2 (held in lecture on Tuesday, June 13 <sup>th</sup> )	30%
Final Exam (Registrar's Scheduled - to be announced)	40%
Bonus Exercises (Unannounced)	0.5% each

### 5.1 Midterms and Final Exam

Exams will be based on the material from readings, lectures, videos and assignments. All exams will be in short answer format (e.g. multiple choice, true/false, matching).

The **Midterm #1 is worth 30%, and will be held in lecture on Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>**. It will focus on content covered in all preceding lectures, videos, and readings.

The **Midterm #2 is worth 30%, and will be held in lecture on Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>**. It will focus on content covered in all preceding lectures, videos, and readings since the Midterm #1.

The **Final Exam is worth 40%, and will be held during regular schedule exam period**. It will focus on content covered since Midterm #2. **HOWEVER**, some questions will require cumulative synthesis and evaluation of material covered during the entire term (i.e., all lectures, videos and readings).



**It pays to attend lectures!** I will regularly provide study advices during the lecture. Finding a study-buddy and/or forming a study group are also strongly encouraged.

### 5.2 Bonus Exercises (0.5% bonus each)

There will be a few short unannounced exercises. These are not graded, but you get 0.5% added to your final grade for each one that you submit. There are no 'make ups' for these exercises, so attend every class if you wish to receive all bonus marks. **No additional extra credit or 'bonus' work is available in this class.**

### 5.3 Grade Scale

No particular course component needs to be passed in order to pass the course as a whole.

A+	94.9-100%	A	89.9-94.8%	A-	84.9-89.8%
B+	79.9-84.8%	B	74.9-79.8%	B-	70.9-74.8%
C+	66.9-70.8%	C	62.9-66.8%	C-	58.9-62.8%
D+	54.9-58.8%	D	49.9-54.8%	F	<49.8%

## **6. EXAM POLICIES**

**6.1 Exams:** Students are expected to write the mid-term and final exams on the scheduled dates. You *are* strongly discouraged from deferring exams. A decision to defer an exam should only be made under truly exceptional circumstances.

**6.2 Absence and Requests for Extensions and Exemptions:** Missed exams will automatically receive a score of zero. If you miss an exam due to illness or other critical event, please contact me **WITHIN 24 HOURS AFTER MISSING THE EXAM**, and documentation (e.g., a signed Physician's Statement) must be provided. If you know ahead of time that you have a conflict for the day of an exam, speak to me as soon as possible (at least two weeks) **prior** to missing an exam so that we can make other arrangements.

**6.3 Make-up Exams:** Make-up exams will be scheduled within a week after the exam. It can be in any format (e.g., oral examination). Please note that performance on make-up exams is normally poorer.

**6.4 Exam Grades:** Exam grades will be posted on D2L as quickly as possible. Exams are NOT returned to students. If you would like to look at your exam, please attend office hours. If you have concerns about the marking of your exam, please provide a detailed written statement within two weeks of when exam results are posted.

## **7. ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

It is the responsibility of the student to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services (SAS), please contact their office at (403) 220-8237, stop by MSC 452 or email [access@ucalgary.ca](mailto:access@ucalgary.ca). Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities available at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-foraccommodations-for-students-with-disabilities\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-foraccommodations-for-students-with-disabilities_0.pdf).

Students who have not registered with SAS are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. SAS students are required to discuss their needs with the instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

**NOTE: If you are experiencing difficulties that may affect your performance in the course, please speak to me immediately! Together, we can work out a plan to help you complete your course work.**

## **8. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Calgary is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievements. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. For detailed information on what constitutes academic misconduct, please refer to the following link: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the University Calendar. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate

academic behavior or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources.

#### **9. DEFERRED EXAMS/ASSIGNMENTS:**

The format of a deferred examination/assignment will likely vary from the original format on the scheduled exam. IE: Essays or short answers rather than multiple choice.

#### **10. TEACHING EVALUATIONS**

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses. **Your responses make a difference, please participate!** Website: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri/>

**11. Writing Across the Curriculum:** Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and may use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

**12. Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points:** In the event of an emergency that requires evacuation, please refer to the following link to become familiar with the assembly points for the class: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

**13. Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:** The University of Calgary is committed to protecting the privacy of individuals who work and study at the University or who otherwise interact with the University in accordance with the standards set out in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Please refer to the following link for detailed information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/system/files/foip%20overview.pdf>

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology's FOIP (Freedom of Information and Privacy) policy requires all reports/examinations to be returned to students during class time or the instructor's office hours. Any term work not picked up will be placed in the Anthropology and Archaeology Office (ES620) for distribution. Any student not wishing to have their work placed in the office must make alternative arrangements with the course instructor early in the term.

**14. Safewalk Information:** Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at (403) 220-5333 or use a help

phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security Officer will accompany you to your campus destination.

**15. Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:** Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate Programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contacts for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

[arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca)

[arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca)

[arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca)

[arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

**10.6 Deferred exams/assignments:**

The format of a deferred examination/assignment will likely vary from the original format on the scheduled exam. .

IE: Essays or short answers rather than multiple choice.

### 11. LECTURE SCHEDULE

Consult D2L regularly! Class schedule can change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Lecture #	Date	Topic & Readings
Lecture 1	Tuesday, May 16 <sup>th</sup>	Course Overview An Introduction to Primates & Primate Studies – <b>Ch. 1</b>
Lecture 2	Thursday, May 18 <sup>th</sup>	The Primate Patterns – <b>Ch. 2: 37-49</b> Primates Past to Present – <b>Ch. 3:73-87</b>
Lecture 3	Tuesday, May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Primate Taxonomy I: Strepsirhines & Tarsiiformes – <b>Ch 2: 50-55</b> Video: <i>Lemurs with John Cleese</i>
Lecture 4	Thursday, May 25 <sup>th</sup>	Primate Taxonomy II: New World Monkeys, Old World Monkeys & Apes – <b>Ch. 2: 55-68</b> Primate Diversity & Phylogenetic Analysis of Behaviour – <b>Ch. 2: 68-72; Ch. 3: 87-96</b> Video: <i>Life of Mammals – Social Climbers</i>
Lecture 5	<b>Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>MIDTERM #1 – 30% of final mark</b> Living in Groups: Natural selection, kin selection and reciprocal altruism – <b>Ch. 4</b> Video: <i>Monkey Island – Cayo Santiago Rhesus Macaques</i>
Lecture 6	Thursday, June 1 <sup>st</sup>	Mating Systems: Sexual selection, parental investment and limited resources – <b>Ch. 4 &amp; 5</b>
Lecture 7	Tuesday, June 6 <sup>th</sup>	Female Reproductive Strategies – <b>Ch. 6 &amp; 7</b> Video: <i>What Females Want; What males do</i>
Lecture 8	Thursday, June 8 <sup>th</sup>	Male Reproductive Strategies – <b>Ch. 8</b> Video: <i>Gelada Baboons – the Battles of Braweheart</i>
Lecture 9	<b>Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>MIDTERM #2 – 30% of final mark</b> Primate Life Cycle – <b>Ch. 9</b> Video: <i>Gremlins: Faces in the Forest</i>
Lecture 10	Thursday, June 15 <sup>th</sup>	Communication & Cognition – <b>Ch. 10</b> Video: <i>Ape Genius</i>
Lecture 11	Tuesday, June 20 <sup>th</sup>	Primate Community Ecology – <b>Ch. 11</b> Video: <i>The Tree Monkeys</i>
Lecture 12	Thursday, June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Primate Conservation – <b>Ch. 12</b> Video: <i>Virunga</i>
<b>June 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>FINAL EXAM – to be scheduled by the Registrar</b>

12. PRIMATE TAXONOMIC CHART (Use this chart instead of the one found in the textbook.)

