

**Department of Anthropology & Archaeology  
University of Calgary**

**Anthropology 311.01 Primate Behaviour  
Winter 2015**



**Time: Tues Thurs 11:00 - 12:15**  
**Location: ST135**

Instructor: Dr. Tania L. Saj  
Office: ES 602 E  
Email: tsaj@ucalgary.ca  
Office hours: Thurs 9:45-10:45

TA: Guthrie Nicola  
Office: ES722  
Email: TBA  
Office hours: TBA

**Course Description:**

This course will cover the fundamentals of primate behaviour research and theory, including: evolution, social dynamics, socio-ecology, dominance, aggression, kinship, sexual behaviour, reproductive strategies, cognition, communication and conservation issues.

**Required Text:**

*Primate Behavioral Ecology* by Karen Strier, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2010

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this course you will be able to:

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

## **ATTENDANCE AND COURSE MATERIALS**

Students will need to attend class to do well in this course! The textbook material is related and complementary to lecture material. However, lectures will not be tightly tied to the format of the textbook and both need to be mastered to do well on exams. Students should read the text and pay close attention to areas where it overlaps with the lectures. Please read the text to understand broad ideas, theories, definitions, and to learn which primate groups and species are associated with learned concepts. The text provides different examples than what is covered in class to supplement your learning and to help to clarify concepts.

**Lecture notes:** will be posted as 1-slide PDF handouts on D2L (<https://d2l.ucalgary.ca>) and can be printed before class to assist in note-taking. Some pictures and whole PPT files will not be posted due to copyright of figures and photographs.

## **Evaluation**

Evaluation for this course will include two mid-term exams and one final exam. All exams will be multiple-choice (which may also include "true or false" questions).

### **Mid-Term Exam I- 33.3% -Oct 6**

Exam covers all lectures, videos and assigned readings to date (Sept 8 - Oct 1).

### **Mid-Term Exam II - 33.3%-Nov 3**

Exam covers all lectures, videos and assigned readings to date (Oct 8 - Oct 29)

**Final Exam - 33.4%- SET BY THE REGISTRAR (Dec 11-22)** The final exam is not cumulative. Exam covers all lectures, videos and assigned readings to date (Nov 5 - Dec 8)

## **Grading Scheme**

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

## **IMPORTANT**

**1. Note Taking:** Lecture notes will be posted on D2L prior to class, and students are encouraged to print these and bring them to class to assist with handwritten note-taking. Note that the posted notes are not sufficient without attending lectures. In addition to assigned readings, exams will be based on all material covered in class, including lectures presented (instructor and guest lectures) and films. *Any classroom materials missed due to absenteeism are the sole responsibility of the student.*

Although related and generally complementary, the material in the textbook is not tightly integrated with the lectures. These should be considered as separate sets of information, all of which must be mastered for the exams. Note to pay special attention to areas in the textbook that overlap with class lectures.

2. **Deferred exams** are only possible for illness or family crisis reasons (and need to be supported by proper documentation). In the event of an emergency or illness, notify the Anthropology office (220-6516) or the instructor (tsaj@ucalgary.ca) **before the missed exam or test**. Missed exams will automatically receive a score of zero. Accommodation for missed exams will be made at the instructor's discretion in the event of a **documented** emergency.

3. **No accommodation will be made for poor performance on exams. For instance, additional items cannot be submitted in lieu of exams and grades will not be curved.** Be sure that you are well-prepared for exams so that you perform well when you have the opportunity.

4. **Classroom Behavior:** It is expected that each student will behave with courtesy and respect toward others. To maintain a distraction-free environment during the class period, the instructor requests that you 1) **turn off cell phones** prior to class and place them in a bag, pocket, or under your desk; 2) **do not carry on conversations while the instructor is speaking**; 3) **avoid late arrivals and early departures** (if you must depart class early, please notify the instructor in advance if possible). If you use a laptop during class, please refrain from any activities unrelated to class, including emailing, web browsing, playing games, etc. Please minimize disruption to your fellow students by sitting at the back or on the classroom periphery. If the use of a laptop becomes too distracting to the class, you will be asked to turn off the computer and use a paper notebook for the remainder of lectures.

5. **Email enquiries:** Please use your full name in email messages; and put Anth 311 in the subject heading. You can email me questions about class topics which will be answered at the next class (the questioner will not be identified). I will not be able to personally answer your questions over email; if you would like to personally talk to me about class material please do so during my office hours, and of course, in class, at the break, or before or after class. We will also not be able to take questions about the test over email; if you have questions about the test or would like to discuss your test, please see myself or the TA during our office hours. In the weeks following the test, you will be able to schedule a 15 min appointment with the TA to look at your test.

6. **Academic Accommodations:** Please inform the instructor if you have any learning disabilities, and if any specific arrangements need to be made to optimize your learning experience. Students who have not registered with The Student Accessibility Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no more than 14 days after the start of the course.

7. **Exam Results:** Results of exams will be posted on D2L within one week of the test. Exams are not returned to the student but can be reviewed during office hours or by appointment. Please contact the TA if you would like to see your exam. If you have concerns about your evaluation, you will be asked to provide a detailed written statement of your concern. Your exam will then be re-graded in its entirety, and marks will be raised, lowered or left unchanged as is warranted. Deadline for submission of written statement is one week after results of an examination have been posted.

8. **Exam Security:** Exam security is taken very seriously. Since exams will be taken in class where students often must sit close together, please be aware that wandering eyes could lead to suspicion. Keep your eyes on your own exam or to the front of the room. Also, cover your own exam to stop others from being tempted to look at it. Please remain seated during exams until you can leave the row you are sitting in without disturbing others. If you are caught cheating, your exam will be taken and a grade of zero will be given automatically.

**9. Plagiarism and Cheating:** Students are expected to familiarize themselves with test and plagiarism regulations as outlined in the University of Calgary Calendar. Plagiarism: "to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one's own" (Webster's). Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will automatically result in a failing grade for the submission. Any student caught plagiarizing will also be subject to additional University sanctions. Students are expected to be familiar with the Anthropology Departments policy on intellectual honesty available at:

<https://www.anth.ucalgary.ca/home/links/intellecutual-honesty-guidelines>

### **10. EMERGENCY EVACUATION**

In the event that the classroom should need to be evacuated due to an emergency please note that the primary assembly point shall be the Professional faculties Food Court.

### **11. USRI:**

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 ([www.ucalgary.ca/usri](http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri)). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys.

**12. Useful Numbers:** Dept of Anthropology: 220-6416 Safe Walk/ Campus Security: 220-5333

The Department of Anthropology'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 Office (SS 854) for distribution. Any student not wishing to have their work placed in the office must make alternate arrangements with the course instructor early in the term.