

ANTHROPOLOGY 413
Method & Theory in Primatology
Fall 2011

Lecture: Tues 14:00-16:50
Location: A 167

Laboratory: Thur 14:00-16:50
Location: Calgary Zoo

Instructor: Dr. Steig Johnson
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Office Hours: Tues 10:00-12:00 & by appointment

TA: TBA

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Martin P, and Bateson P (2007) *Measuring Behaviour: An Introductory Guide*, 3rd Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Paterson JD (2001) *Primate Behavior: An Exercise Workbook*, 2nd Edition. Prospect Heights, Ill: Waveland Press, Inc.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, we will address research methods in the study of primate social systems. The laboratory component consists of instruction in observational methodology and exercises, primarily at the Calgary Zoo. We will take students through the various stages of the research process, including research topics and hypotheses, methodology, data collection, analysis, and presentation. The goal is to help students develop the skills to conduct advanced, independent research in primatology, whether in captivity or in a field environment.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Previous completion of ANTH 311 is required for this course. Students are expected to attend lectures and to participate in all assigned exercises. Much of the work for this course will be conducted at the Calgary Zoo. Beware: the time commitments for this class can be high!

Students are responsible for materials covered in the textbooks and videos. Classroom materials missed due to absenteeism are the sole responsibility of the student.

IMPORTANT DATES

September 13	First day of lecture
November 10-13	Reading Days
December 9	Last day of Fall lectures (final projects due)



COURSE ASSIGNMENTS OVERVIEW

	Due Date	% Total Grade
Test #1	October 4	22.5%
Lab Assignment #1	October 13	15%
Test #2	October 25	22.5%
Lab Assignment #2	November 3	5%
Lab Assignment #3	December 9	35%

Tests are multiple choice and short answer format. Make-up tests **will not be given** unless you have written proof of medical or other dire emergency. Exercises submitted late must have written proof of medical or other dire emergency. Without supporting documentation, late penalties may apply, or the assignment may not be accepted. You must contact the instructor (*not* the teaching assistant) via e-mail or telephone or the Anthropology Department (220-6516) **before the missed test or assignment** and explain the reason for the absence. If you foresee a missed test or assignment due to a personal scheduling conflict, you must contact the instructor at least two weeks prior to the due date. In these cases, make-ups and extensions are at the sole discretion of the instructor.

MARKING GUIDELINES

A+	94.9–100%	C+	66.9–70.8%
A	89.9–94.8%	C	62.9–66.8%
A-	84.9–89.8%	C-	68.9–62.8%
B+	79.9–84.8%	D+	54.9–58.8%
B	74.9–79.8%	D	49.9–54.8%
B-	70.9–74.8%	F	49.8% and below

LECTURE SCHEDULE

Subject to change, including reading assignments

Part I. Methods in Primate Ethology

Reading: Paterson Chapters 1-5, Martin & Bateson Chapters 1-9

Sep 13	General Introduction to the Course
Sep 20	Introduction to Primatology Behaviour Basics Observational Methods Research Design
Sep 27	Analysis Scientific Writing
Oct 4	<i>Test #1</i>

Part II. Methods in Field Ecology

Reading: Paterson Exercises 14-19

Oct 11	Sampling Wild Populations Habitat Sampling Analysis of Ranging Behaviour
Oct 18	Analysis of Primate Diets Animal Handling & Non-Invasive Techniques

Oct 25	<i>Test #2</i>
Nov 1	Excel Basics Basic Statistics (reread Martin & Bateson Chapter 9)
Nov 8	Meet at the Calgary Zoo
Nov 15	<i>No Lecture</i>
Nov 22-29	In-Class Final Project Assistance

LABORATORY SCHEDULE & ASSIGNMENTS

Sep 15 – First Laboratory Meeting (SA 137)

In this lab, you will be introduced to practical aspects of studying animal behaviour in captivity through a video presentation. The video contains several exercises in observational techniques, several of which you will complete during the lab. This exercise will give you a good idea of what kind of methods you'll be using during your studies of primates at the Calgary Zoo.

Sep 20-Nov 22 – Regular Laboratory Meetings at the Calgary Zoo

We will meet weekly on Thur at the zoo to discuss lab assignments, provide help and feedback, etc. The instructor and/or teaching assistant will be present at these times. Lab will also be held on Tues Nov 8 (and not Thur Nov 10, which is during Reading Days). You **must** attend scheduled labs, as the work conducted during these times will be checked and returned to you the following week. However, if you wish to collect data beyond the required observation time, you are free to work independently on assignments at any other time during zoo business hours.

Oct 13 – Assignment #1 due in Anthropology Office (SS 854) drop box at 4 pm

This assignment consists of Exercise 4 in Paterson's workbook. Further instructions will be provided in the Sep 20 laboratory. This exercise will require 4 hours of observation at the Zoo.

Nov 3 – Assignment #2 due at the lab meeting at the Calgary Zoo at 2 pm

You will also submit your topic for Assignment #3, framed as a testable question, brief research plan, and appropriate background literature. Further instructions will be provided.

Dec 9 – Assignment #3 due in Anthropology Office (SS 854) drop box at 4 pm

This is your final project: the Focal Animal Sampling study (Exercise 9) based on 8 hours of observation at the Zoo. Instruction on how to prepare this technical report will be ongoing during the semester.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

To conduct the research exercises at a minimum cost, students will need to purchase a Student Membership in the Calgary Zoological Society (details to be provided). When working at the Calgary Zoo, please do not act as information providers to the public. Please refer curious fellow visitors to the Zoo staff or docents for information on the animals.

Please read *carefully* the following excerpt on plagiarism from the University Calendar:

Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

- (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
- (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence.

It is recognized that clause (d) does not prevent a graduate student incorporating work previously done by him or her in a thesis or dissertation.

Plagiarism is a serious offence. The penalty is academic probation or requirement to withdraw in addition to an "F" on the assignment and possibly an "F" in the course as a whole.

Penalties for plagiarism will be strictly enforced in this class. If you have any question about whether your assignments might fall under this definition, see the instructor *prior* to submitting your work.

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 Social Science Food Court and the secondary assembly point shall be the ICT Food Court.