

Primate Conservation

ANT 348K / GRG 356T

Fall 2018

Class Meets: Mondays & Wednesdays, 10:00 – 11:30 AM Room SAC 4.174

Instructor: Dr. Aaron Sandel

Office: SAC 5.140

Pronouns: he/him/his

Office hours: Wed 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM,

Email: aaron.sandel@austin.utexas.edu

Thur 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM & by appt

Phone: (512) 471-7530

About Dr. Sandel

I study wild chimpanzees in western Uganda, focusing on social behavior, development, and physiology. In addition, I am engaged in several activities related to conservation, education, and entrepreneurship in the communities outside Kibale National Park in Uganda. This includes work with a rural elementary school and a non-profit burrito restaurant.

tl;dr lectures + discussions; buy *Eating Apes*; talk to me about anything I should know about you

Course Description

This course will introduce you to the major issues in primate conservation. What are primates and why do they matter? What are the threats facing primates and the ecosystems in which they live? What are the strategies to combat those threats, and how can you as a student at UT Austin make a difference?

What will you learn?

Main skills and attitudes to be developed:

- Appreciation of primates
- Understanding of threats to biodiversity
- Critical thinking and communication about topics of interest
- Ethical reasoning
- Conservation toolkit
- Writing and reading comprehension



How will you learn?

This course will combine lectures with class discussions and class activities. You are expected to carefully read articles and chapters before the scheduled class, take notes during lecture, and complete class activities. I also encourage you to help shape this course. What do you want to learn? How can you connect your passions to the course material?

Pre-requisites for the course: Anthropology 301 or familiarity with primate taxonomy and behavior

Course Requirements

Required Materials

There is one required book: *Eating Apes* by Dale Peterson and Karl Ammann. It is **not** available at the University Co-op, so please **obtain elsewhere by September 10**, e.g. [new on Amazon](#) for around \$30 and used for less than \$10. Let me know if you have any challenges with purchasing the book by then. Additional readings will be posted online to Canvas.

Course Schedule (Subject to change!)

Week	Date	Day	Module	Lecture Topic	Notes
1	29-Aug	Wed	Primates	Biodiversity Conservation & Course Intro	<u>Quiz 1:</u> What do you know?
2	3-Sep	Mon		NO CLASSES- LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	
	5-Sep	Wed		Primate Behavior & Taxonomy	Reading: See Canvas
3	10-Sep	Mon		Primate Behavior & Cognition	
	12-Sep	Wed		Ecological Role of Primates	<u>Quiz 2:</u> Intro to Primates
4	17-Sep	Mon	Threats to Primates	Hunting & the Bushmeat Trade	<u>Quiz 3:</u> <i>Eating Apes</i>
	19-Sep	Wed		Deforestation & Habitat Loss	
5	24-Sep	Mon		Case Study: Palm Oil	Activity: Class Debate; Reading: See Canvas
	26-Sep	Wed		Disease	<u>Assignment 1:</u> Article summary
6	1-Oct	Mon		Pet Trade & Other Threats	
	3-Oct	Wed		Population Growth & Consumption	<u>Quiz 4:</u> Conservation Threats
7	8-Oct	Mon	Conservation Strategies	Protected Areas & Enforcement	Reading: See Canvas
	10-Oct	Wed		Conservation Education	Reading: See Canvas
8	15-Oct	Mon		Captivity and Economic Incentives	<u>Assignment 2:</u> 2-minute primate education video
	17-Oct	Wed		Community Based Conservation & Development	
9	22-Oct	Mon		Conservation Psychology	Reading: See Canvas
	24-Oct	Wed	Big Picture Issues	Exam #1	<u>Exam 1:</u> Primate Threats and Conservation Strategies
10	29-Oct	Mon		Taking a Step Back: Environmental Ethics	Reading: See Canvas
	31-Oct	Wed		Think Global, Act Local: Revisiting Palm Oil	Activity: Palm Oil Outreach
11	5-Nov	Mon		Conservation Skills: Ecology & Technology	<u>Assignment 3:</u> Book Review of <i>Eating Apes</i>
	7-Nov	Wed		Conservation Gone Wrong	Reading: See Canvas
12	12-Nov	Mon		Place of People in Ecosystems	Reading: See Canvas
	14-Nov	Wed	Strategies for the Future	Traditional Ecological Knowledge	<u>Quiz 5:</u> Ecology; Reading: See Canvas
13	19-Nov	Mon		Escaping Colonial Conservation	Reading: See Canvas
	21-Nov	Wed		NO CLASSES- THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
14	26-Nov	Mon		Conservation Skills: Ethnography & Community Development	
	28-Nov	Wed		Conservation Skills: Negotiation & Entrepreneurship	<u>Assignment 4:</u> Campus Ethnography
15	3-Dec	Mon		Role of Universities in Primate Conservation	
	5-Dec	Wed		Review & Student Evaluations	
16	10-Dec	Mon		Exam #2	<u>Exam 2:</u> Conservation Skills & Solutions

Grading for this Course (subject to modification)

Assignments	Points possible	Percent of Total Grade
1. Article summary	10	5
2. 2-minute primate education video	10	5
3. Book Review of <i>Eating Apes</i>	10	10
4. Campus Ethnography	10	5

Quizzes	Points possible	Percent of Total Grade
1. What do You Know?	5	2
2. Intro to Primates	5	2
3. Eating Apes	5	2
4. Conservation Threats	5	2
5. Ecology	5	2

Exams	Points possible	Percent of Total Grade
1. Exam 1	100	15
2. Exam 2	100	15

Attendance & Participation	Points possible	Percent of Total Grade
1. Attendance in Class	28	4
2. Engagement in Class	56	8
3. Class Activities	20	8

Final	Points possible	Percent of Total Grade
Final Test (Format TBD)	100	15

*Note: The final exam may take the form of a written essay, inter-disciplinary project, or written test depending on what we agree upon as a class. It will be due during the week of final examinations (e.g. by Dec. 17).

Course Outline

All instructions, assignments, readings, rubrics and essential information will be on the Canvas website at <https://utexas.instructure.com>. Check this site regularly and use it to ask questions about the course schedule.

Changes to the schedule may be made at my discretion. I also anticipate modifying the syllabus according to the interests of the students. It is your responsibility to note these changes when announced (although I will do my best to ensure that you receive the changes with as much advanced notice as possible).

Ethics and Leadership Flag

This course carries the Ethics and Leadership flag. Ethics and Leadership courses are designed to equip you with skills that are necessary for making ethical decisions in your adult and professional life. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments involving ethical issues and the process of applying ethical reasoning to real-life situations.

The following pages outline policies for grading as well as university policies and campus resources.

Policies

Classroom Policies

Statement on Learning Success

Your success in this class is important to me. We all learn differently. If there are aspects of this course that prevent you from learning or exclude you, please let me know as soon as possible. Together we'll develop strategies to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. I also encourage you to reach out to the student resources available through UT. Many are listed on this syllabus, but I am happy to connect you with a person or Center if you would like.

Grading Policies

Grade	Cutoff
A	94%
A-	90%
B+	87%
B	84%
B-	80%
C+	77%
C	74%
C-	70%
D	65%
F	<65%

Late work

Late work will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Please make every effort to complete assignments on time, as this will allow us to move forward on schedule.

Absences

This course relies on both lecture and discussions, so attendance is important. The only absences that will be considered excused are for religious holidays or extenuating circumstances due to an emergency.

Student Rights & Responsibilities

- You have a right to a learning environment that supports mental and physical wellness.
- You have a right to respect.
- You have a right to be assessed and graded fairly.
- You have a right to freedom of opinion and expression.
- You have a right to privacy and confidentiality.
- You have a right to meaningful and equal participation, to self-organize groups to improve your learning environment.
- You have a right to learn in an environment that is welcoming to all people. No student shall be isolated, excluded or diminished in any way.

With these rights come responsibilities:

- You are responsible for taking care of yourself, managing your time, and communicating with the teaching team and with others if things start to feel out of control or overwhelming.
- You are responsible for acting in a way that is worthy of respect and always respectful of others.

- Your experience with this course is directly related to the quality of the energy that you bring to it, and your energy shapes the quality of your peers' experiences.
- You are responsible for creating an inclusive environment and for speaking up when someone is excluded.
- You are responsible for holding yourself accountable to these standards, holding each other to these standards, and holding the teaching team accountable as well.

Names and Personal Pronouns

To have a productive learning environment, it is important that I get to know you and you get to know your fellow students. This means learning everyone's names. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by a name different than what appears on the roster, and by your gender pronoun. Please advise me of this early in the semester.

University Policies

Academic Integrity

Each student in the course is expected to abide by the University of Texas Honor Code: **"As a student of The University of Texas at Austin, I shall abide by the core values of the University and uphold academic integrity."** **Plagiarism is taken very seriously at UT.** Therefore, if you use words or ideas that are not your own (or that you have used in previous class), you must cite your sources. Otherwise you will be guilty of plagiarism and subject to academic disciplinary action, including failure of the course. You are responsible for understanding UT's Academic Honesty and the University Honor Code which can be found at the following web address: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php

Q Drop Policy

If you want to drop a class after the 12th class day, you'll need to execute a Q drop before the Q-drop deadline, which typically occurs near the middle of the semester. Under Texas law, you are only allowed six Q drops while you are in college at any public Texas institution. For more information, see:

<http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/csacc/academic/adddrop/qdrop>

University Resources for Students

Services for Students with Disabilities

This class respects and welcomes students of all backgrounds, identities, and abilities. If there are circumstances that make our learning environment and activities difficult, if you have medical information that you need to share with me, or if you need specific arrangements in case the building needs to be evacuated, please let me know. I am committed to creating an effective learning environment for all students, but I can only do so if you discuss your needs with me as early as possible. I promise to maintain the confidentiality of these discussions. If appropriate, also contact Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329- 3986 (video phone). <http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/about/>

Counseling and Mental Health Center

All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. There are many helpful resources available on campus and an important part of the college experience is learning how to ask for help. Asking for support sooner rather than later is often helpful. If you or anyone you know experiences any academic stress, difficult life events, or feelings like anxiety or depression, we strongly encourage you to seek support. <http://www.cmhc.utexas.edu/individualcounseling.html>

The Sanger Learning Center

All students are welcome to take advantage of Sanger Center's classes and workshops, private learning specialist appointments, peer academic coaching, and tutoring for more than 70 courses in 15 different subject areas. For more information, please visit <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/slcc> or call 512-471-3614 (JES A332).

Undergraduate Writing Center: <http://uwc.utexas.edu/>

Libraries: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/>

ITS: <http://www.utexas.edu/its/>

Student Emergency Services: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/>

Important Safety Information:

If you have concerns about the safety or behavior of fellow students, TAs or Professors, call BCAL (the Behavior Concerns Advice Line): 512-232-5050. Your call can be anonymous. If something doesn't feel right – it probably isn't. Trust your instincts and share your concerns.

Title IX Reporting

Title IX is a federal law that protects against sex and gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, dating/domestic violence and stalking at federally funded educational institutions. UT Austin is committed to fostering a learning and working environment free from discrimination in all its forms. When sexual misconduct occurs in our community, the university can:

1. Intervene to prevent harmful behavior from continuing or escalating.
2. Provide support and remedies to students and employees who have experienced harm or have become involved in a Title IX investigation.
3. Investigate and discipline violations of the university's [relevant policies](#).

Faculty members and certain staff members are considered "Responsible Employees" or "Mandatory Reporters," which means that they are required to report violations of Title IX to the Title IX Coordinator. **I am a Responsible Employee and must report any Title IX related incidents** that are disclosed in writing, discussion, or one-on-one. Before talking with me, or with any faculty or staff member about a Title IX related incident, be sure to ask whether they are a responsible employee. If you want to speak with someone for support or remedies without making an official report to the university, email advocate@austin.utexas.edu For more information about reporting options and resources, visit titleix.utexas.edu or contact the Title IX Office at titleix@austin.utexas.edu.

The following recommendations regarding emergency evacuation from the Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767, <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/>

Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
- Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.
- I'll add 0.5% to your final grade if you email me with the subject "I read the syllabus" by September 3, 2018
- Link to information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: www.utexas.edu/emergency