
Anthropology 302

PRIMATE BEHAVIOR AND ECOLOGY

Lecture TTH 10:00-11:15 Pierce Hall 102

Spring Semester, 2003

Instructor: Dr. Wendy Dirks

Office: Seney Hall 214C

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 2:00-4:00 or by appointment. I will be very flexible in scheduling appointments, so please feel free to come and see me with any concern or question.

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Textbooks: Strier, K. B. (2003) *Primate Behavioral Ecology* 2nd Edition. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Altmann, J. (1980) *Baboon Mothers and Infants*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Smuts, B. B. (1985) *Sex and Friendship in Baboons*. Cambridge (MA): Harvard University Press.

On reserve: Rowe N. *Pictorial Guide to the Living Primates*. Pogonias Press.

Additional readings will be put on e-reserve throughout the semester and will be announced in class. There will be several in-class video presentations. There will also be a Blackboard site for the class.

Internet resources:

<http://www.primate.wisc.edu/pin/> - The Primate Info Net – great links and information on primatology and primatologists.

<http://www.asp.org> – The American Society of Primatologists

Goals of the Course:

This course covers the basics of primate behavioral ecology, the study of primate behavior in an evolutionary and ecological context. Students are expected to demonstrate the following:

1. A general understanding of the principles of behavioral ecology and their application to primates through quizzes and exams;
2. An understanding of the methods used by primatologists to study primates in the field through observation of captive primates and preparation of a research report based on those observations;
3. A thorough understanding of the behavioral ecology of a single primate species of the student's choice through completion of a detailed research paper on that species.

Student Requirements for Completing the Course:

1. There will be a mid-term exam, a final exam, a research report, a research paper, and a presentation based on the research paper. The exam format will be short answer, multiple choice, or true/false. Attendance and active participation in class

- discussion are expected. Makeup exams will be given only under conditions of a documented severe illness or serious emergency.
2. The two exams will each be worth 100 points each. The papers and presentation will also each be worth 100 points. The final grade will be an average of the grades for the two exams, report, paper, and presentation.
 3. The grading scale is as follows:
 - A = 90 pts or above
 - B = 80-89 pts
 - C = 70-79 pts
 - D = 60-69 pts
 - F = less than 60 pts

Course policies:

The syllabus is subject to change, except for the final exam time. I want to be flexible in allowing for unexpected or interesting developments that we may want to discuss in class.

All students are expected to be familiar with, and abide by, the Oxford College Honor Code. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Class Outline

Week of:	Topic	Reading
Jan 16	Introduction to the course	
Jan 21	Introduction to primate studies	Strier, Chapter 1 Smuts, Chapters 1-2 Altmann: Observational study of behavior... (E-reserve)
Jan 28	Traits, trends, and taxonomy	Strier, Chapter 2 Smuts, Chapters 3-4
Feb 4	Primates past to present	Strier, Chapter 3 Smuts, Chapters 5-6
Feb 11	Evolution and social behavior	Strier, Chapter 4 Smuts, Chapters 7-8 Parr and de Waal: Visual kin recognition in chimpanzees (E-reserve) Erhart et al.: Kin recognition in paternal half siblings... (E-reserve)
Feb 18	Evolution and sex	Strier, Chapter 5 Smuts, Chapters 9-10 Dunbar: What's in a baboon's behind? (E-reserve) Domb & Pagel: Sexual swellings advertise female quality in baboons. (E-reserve) Semple: Individuality and male discrimination of female copulation calls in baboons (E-reserve)

Feb 25	Food and females	Strier, Chapter 6 Altmann, Chapters 1-2
FEB 27	MIDTERM EXAM	STRIER, CHAPTERS 1-5, SMUTS, RESERVE READINGS
Mar 4	Female strategies	Strier, Chapter 7 Altmann, Chapters 3-4
MAR 6	RESEARCH REPORTS DUE	
Mar 11	SPRING BREAK	
Mar 18	Male strategies	Strier, Chapter 8 Altmann, Chapters 5-8
Mar 25	Developmental stages through the life cycle	Strier, Chapter 9 Altmann, Chapters 9-10 Dirks et al.: Out of the mouths of baboons... (E-reserve)
Apr 1	Communication and cognition	Strier, Chapter 10
Apr 8	Community Ecology	Strier, Chapter 11
Apr 15	Conservation	Strier, Chapter 12 Whitfield: The law of the jungle... (E- reserve) Oates, TBA Beck et al., TBA
Apr 22	Peer review groups	Work on research paper and presentation, study for final
APR 29	FINAL EXAM	STRIER, CHAPTERS 6-12, ALTMANN, RESERVE READINGS
May 5, 9:00- 12:00	PRESENTATIONS RESEARCH PAPER DUE	
