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# **Anthropology 302**

## **PRIMATE BEHAVIOR AND ECOLOGY**

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Lecture TTH 10:00-11:15 Language Hall 201

Spring Semester, 2005

Instructor: Dr. Wendy Dirks

Office: Language Hall 102

Office Hours: MWF 10:30-11:30. I will be very flexible in scheduling appointments, so please feel free to come and see me with any concern or question.

Phone: (770) 784-8349

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### **Textbooks:**

Falk, D. (2000) *Primate Diversity*. New York: Norton.

Hailman, J. P. & Strier, K. B. (1997) *Planning, Proposing, and Presenting Science Effectively*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Martin, P. & Bateson, P. (1993) *Measuring Behaviour: An Introductory Guide*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

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

### **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

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### **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 knowledge of primate diversity, through written exams;
2. A general understanding of the principles of behavioral ecology and their application to primates through a research proposal and oral and written reports on a behavioral research project set in the context of these principles;
3. An understanding of the methods used by primatologists to study primates in the field through the design, implementation, and analysis of behavioral research based on observations of captive primates;
4. An understanding of how science is presented both in scientific meetings and journals through the oral presentation and preparation of the captive research papers for publication in an in-house primatology journal, including participating in peer review of paper drafts.

### **Student Requirements for Completing the Course:**

1. There will be a mid-term exam, a research proposal, two or more field trips to ZooAtlanta, preparation of a research proposal, data collection and analysis, a presentation of the research, and research paper written as if to be submitted to a

- primate journal. Drafts of the proposal and research paper will be submitted and then revised for the final grade. 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 exam, the proposal, the presentation, and the research paper will each be worth 25% of the grade.
  3. The grading scale will be A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, +D, D, F.
  4. This course fulfills the Sophomore Writing Requirement, when completed with a final grade of C or better.

### Course policies:

The syllabus is subject to change. 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

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Jan 20	Introduction to the course	
Jan 25	Introduction to primate studies	Strier, Chapter 1 Falk, Introduction, Chapter 2
Jan 27	Traits, trends, and taxonomy	Strier, Chapter 2
Feb 1	Primates past to present	Strier, Chapter 3 Falk, Chapter 1
Feb 3	Academic Robes Day (Writing in Science)	"Out of the Mouths of Baboons" "The effect of diet on dental development..."
Feb 8	Strepsirrhines & Platyrrhines	Falk, Chapters 3-6
Feb 10	Cercopithecoids	Falk, Chapters 7-9
Feb 15	Hominoids	Falk, Chapters 10-13
Feb 17	Film: Survey of the Primates	
<b>FEB 22</b>	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	<b>PRIMATE DIVERSITY</b>
Feb 24	Behavioral Observation	Hailman & Strier, Chapter 1 Martin & Bateson, Chapters 1-7
Mar 1	Evolution & Social Behavior	Strier, Chapter 4
Mar 3	Proposal Preparation	Hailman & Strier, Chapter 2 & Appendix
<b>Mar 5/6</b>	<b>ZOOATLANTA</b>	
Mar 8	Evolution & Sex	Strier, Chapter 5
Mar 10	Food & Females	Strier, Chapter 6
Mar 15	SPRING BREAK	

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Mar 17		
Mar 22	Female Strategies	Strier, Chapter 7
Mar 24	Male Strategies	Strier, Chapter 8
		<b>PROPOSALS DUE</b>
Mar 29	Developmental Stages through the Life Cycle	Strier, Chapter 9
Mar 31	Communication & Cognition	Strier, Chapter 10
		<b>REVISED PROPOSALS DUE</b>
Apr 5	Community Ecology	Strier, Chapter 11
Apr 7	Analysis of Data	Martin & Bateson, Chapter 8, Appendices
<b>APR 8/9</b>	<b>ZOOATLANTA</b>	
Apr 12	Conservation	Strier, Chapter 12
Apr 14	Preparation of Reports & Presentations	Hailman & Strier, Chapters 3 & 4
Apr 19	Discussion: How to write a review	<b>DRAFTS OF PAPERS DUE</b>
Apr 21		<b>REVIEWS DUE</b>
Apr 26	DISCUSSION OF PAPERS	
Apr 28	<b>WRAP-UP</b>	<b>FINAL PAPERS DUE</b>
May 3	<b>PRESENTATIONS</b>	<b>OXFORD JOURNAL OF PRIMATOLOGY</b>
<b>MAY 12</b>	<b>PRESENTATIONS</b>	<b>9:00 TO 12:00</b>

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