

**ANTHP 310/794**  
**PRIMATE ECOLOGY & BEHAVIOR**  
**Fall 2012**  
**Monday 5:30-7:20 pm, Room 730 Hunter North**

---

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:**

Dr. Andrea Baden

730 Hunter North

E-mail: ab395@hunter.cuny.edu *\*\*For emails please include "ANTHP 310/794" in the subject\*\**

Office Hours: Mondays 2-4 pm or by appointment

**PREREQUISITE:** ANTHP 101 (Introduction to Human Evolution) or permission of the instructor

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Through lectures, discussion and student presentations this course will examine the ecology and behavior of the living primates, with a focus on how ecological factors shape primate behavior. Topics include: community ecology, feeding and nutrition, kinship, mating strategies, and social organization. Because most primate species are threatened, endangered, or even facing extinction, we will also focus on how various aspects of ecology are used in the conservation of primates.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Each class meeting will include lecture, supplemented with student presentations on their primate of choice, and class discussions relating to assigned readings and lecture topics. Undergraduates should enroll in ANTH-P 310, while graduate students should enroll in ANTH-P 794.

The final grade will be based on the following:

1. Attendance and class participation (25%)
  - Students will be assigned a primate and will be asked to find at least 2 references relevant to the topic of discussion for each class. Students enrolled in ANTHP 794 will be expected to complete additional assignments (e.g., reaction essays to topics discussed in class) that will be announced in class and factored into this grade.
2. Two exams (60%)
3. Paper (15%)
  - Students in ANTHP 310 will be expected to write 3 pages (single-spaced, 12 pt font), including a reference list of at least 10 sources.
  - Students in ANTHP 794 will be expected to write 6 pages (single-spaced, 12 pt font), including a reference list of at least 20 sources.

Exams are a combination of short answer, essay, and matching/multiple choice arising from the lectures, readings and discussions. Additional details on the presentations, leading discussions, paper, and Power Point presentations will be discussed on the first day of class.

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

Strier, K.B. 2011. Primate Behavioral Ecology, 4th Edition. Prentice Hall, Boston. List price is \$71.40, but check Amazon.com or Bestwebbuys.com for less expensive alternatives.

**SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS (Available on Blackboard):**

Fleagle 1999. Primate Adaptation and Evolution, 2nd edition. San Diego: Academic Press.

Campbell et al. 2011. Primates in Perspective. Oxford University Press. 2nd edition.

\*In addition, students are required to read 2-3 research articles per week for discussion. Research articles will be posted on Blackboard at least one week in advance. I will also use Blackboard to post 'key terms and concepts' to know from each lecture (lecture notes will *not* be posted), important notices for the class, and grades. Thus, it is your responsibility to check Blackboard regularly for readings and announcements.

This is a 3-credit course-- outside of class time, the workload is an average of 5-7 hrs per week.

**RESOURCES:**

Primatological journals are available in the library and most can be downloaded from the Hunter library website. Between the Science Library and personal collections, these are well covered at Hunter University. These include, but are not limited to the American Journal of Primatology; Folia Primatologica; International Journal of Primatology; Primates; American Journal of Physical Anthropology; Journal of Human Evolution; Animal Behaviour; Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology Behavioral Ecology; Science; Nature; Biology Letters; Journal of Human Evolution; etc.

To search for sources, I recommend using Web of Science which can be accessed from the Hunter Library web site. It is easy, comprehensive, and user-friendly. Google Scholar is also helpful when searching for broad topics. For a comprehensive database of sources available through 2010, go to: [www.primate.wisc.edu/pin](http://www.primate.wisc.edu/pin). Click on the box labeled PRIMATELIT.

**CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE:**

Attend *all* lectures. Reading, talking, eating, text-messaging on cell phone, leaving or packing up to leave before the professor has dismissed the class are inappropriate classroom behaviors & disruptive to other students. If for some reason you know that you will need to leave lecture early, let me know before class begins, sit near the door, and leave quietly and unobtrusively. If you come to class late, be sure to enter quietly and take care not to disturb the class in progress. Also, please make sure that your watch alarms, pagers, and cell phones do not go off during class.

**POLICY REGARDING MISSED EXAMS:**

Generally, makeup examinations are not given. If you would like to be considered for a makeup examination, the following three conditions must be met: 1. You must have a legitimate excuse for missing the original exam, e.g., illness, family emergency. 2. You must inform me by phone or in person within 48 hrs before or after the scheduled exam date that you cannot take the exam. My phone has voice mail, so you can leave a message. 3. Within a week of the missed examination, you must provide me with a Physician's letter (for cases of illness) or Dean's Letter of Absence (for other cases) confirming that you had a legitimate reason to miss the examination. Note: Deans do not provide letters for minor problems. If all 3 of the above conditions apply, then you can take a makeup exam (either written, oral, or both). It's your responsibility to note the date & time of all exams, including the final, and to plan accordingly. The dates & times are on the University webpage for Schedule of Final Exams. If you miss the exam, or any part of it, because you thought it was given on a different day or at a different time, you will *not* receive extra time or a make-up exam. So, take note now and mark your calendar, iPod, Blackberry, mobile phone, etc.

## **MY COMPUTER CRASHED AND I LOST MY HOMEWORK!**

Computer glitches (such as computers that die, hard disks that crash, flash drives that are lost, etc) will not be accepted as excuses for failure to do assignments on time, to study for exams, etc. It is your responsibility to ensure that everything you do on a computer is properly & frequently backed up so that failure of a computer has no effect on your academic performance.

## **CUNY STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

All students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism, and other academic offenses. Please read the following statement: <http://web.cuny.edu/academics/info-central/policies/academic-integrity.pdf>. Any work that is not your own needs to be credited.

## **CLASS SCHEDULE & ASSIGNED READINGS**

PBE: Primate Behavioral Ecology (Strier)

PAE: Primate Adaptation and Evolution (Fleagle)

PIP: Primates in Perspective (Campbell et al.)

*\*PAE and PIP chapters will be made available on Blackboard, as will supplementary articles not listed here. It is your responsibility to check Blackboard regularly for updates.*

### **August 27 (Monday)**

Topic: Introduction to Primate Behavioral Ecology

Readings:

- PBE Chapter 1

Online resources:

- PAE Chapters 2 & 3

Assignment:

- Select a primate/radiation in class. This will be your designated primate for the rest of the semester. Prior to the next class, find the following information for your primate: distribution, habitat, activity pattern, diet, locomotion, group size & social organization. Be prepared to describe one interesting fact that you learned during your research during the next class.

### **September 3 (Monday)**

**\*\*NO CLASS\*\***

### **September 10 (Monday)**

Topic: Taxonomic Diversity: Introduction to the Living Primates

Readings:

- PBE Chapters 2 & 3

Online resources:

- PAE Chapters 4-7 (read before first exam)

### **September 17 (Monday)**

**\*\*NO CLASS\*\***

### **September 24 (Monday)**

Topic: Primate Adaptations

Readings:

- PBE Chapter 2

Online resources:

- PAE Chapter 9

### **October 1 (Monday)**

Topic: Evolution of Social Behavior: Natural Selection, Kin Selection & Reciprocal Altruism

Readings:

- PBE Chapter 4

Online resources:

- Kappeler & van Schaik 2002 *IJP* 23: 707-740
- Clutton-Brock 2002 *Science* 296: 69-72
- Silk 2002 *IJP* 23:849-875
- Clutton-Brock 2009 *Nature* 462: 51-57

### **October 10 (Wednesday)**

Topic: Sexual Selection & Mating Strategies

Readings:

- PBE Chapter 5

Online resources:

- PIP Chapter 30
- Paul 2002 *IJP* 23: 877-904

### **October 15 (Monday)**

Topic: Diet, Nutrition and Food Acquisition

Readings:

- PBE Chapter 6

Online resources:

- PIP Chapter 33
- Milton 1993 *Sci Amer* 269: 86-93
- Lambert 1998 *Evol Anthropol* 7: 8-20
- Janson & Chapman 1999 *Primate Societies* pp. 237-267

### **October 22 (Monday)**

\*\*\*EXAM 1\*\*\*

### **October 29 (Monday)**

Topic: Why Live in Groups? Predation & Resource Competition

Readings:

- PBE Chapters 6

Online resources:

- Wrangham 1980 *Behaviour* 75: 262-300
- van Schaik 1983 *Behaviour* 87: 120-144
- Sterck et al. 1997 *Behav Ecol Sociobiol* 41: 291-309

**November 5 (Monday)**

Topic: Ecology of Social Relationships: Female and Male Strategies

Readings:

- PBE Chapters 7 & 8

Online resources:

- Articles TBA

**November 12 (Monday)**

Topic: Primate Life History

Readings:

- PBE Chapter 9

Online resources:

- Harvey and Clutton-Brock 1985 *Evolution* 39: 559-581
- Charnov & Berrigan 1993 *Evol Anthropol* 1: 191-194
- Kappeler 1998 *AJP* 46: 7-33

**November 19 (Monday)**

Topic: Communication, Cognition & Culture

Readings:

- PBE Chapter 10

Online resources:

- PIP Chapters 42-44
- Articles TBA

**November 26 (Monday)**

Topic: Community Ecology & Biogeography

Readings:

- PBE Chapter 11

Online resources:

- PAE Chapter 8
- Articles TBA

**December 3 (Monday)**

Topic: Field Methods in Primatology

Readings:

Online resources:

- PIP Chapters 21-24

**December 10 (Monday)**

Topic: Primate Conservation

Readings:

- PBE Chapter 12

Online resources:

- Articles TBA

**December 17: FINAL EXAM, 5:30 – 7:20pm**

*\*\*Dates of topics, exams and discussions are subject to change if necessary\*\**