

Primate Evolution

ANT 4554C* section 1A89; ANG 6930 section 1A90

ZOO 4926** section 1C07; ZOO 6927 section 1C03

Spring Semester 2015

Course Prospectus

This course will provide a survey of primate evolution from the Paleocene through Miocene epochs. Topics include methods of paleontological inference with an emphasis on problems of taxonomy, phylogeny, biogeography and functional morphology in the fossil record.

Instructor:

- Jonathan Bloch, Curator and Professor, 222 Dickinson (FLMNH), jbloch@flmnh.ufl.edu

Credits: 3

Class periods: Tu 8th and 9th periods (3:00 to 4:55 pm)/Thursday 9th period (4:05-4:55)

Prerequisite: *Prereq: ANT 3514C or instructor permission; **Prereq: BSC 2011 and 2011L or equivalent and instructor permission

Room: First (Organizational) Meeting: NRN Rm 0331;

All other classes will meet in *FAC (Fine Arts C) Rm 120* (Change from original schedule)

Grades will be based on

- Mid-term exam (25%). This is an open-book take-home exam covering all material from the first half of the course.
- Research Paper (35%). Topics must be chosen, approved by instructor, and briefly summarized in written form by February 26th
- End term Exam (25%)
- *Class attendance and participation (15%)

Readings

Journal/book articles assigned from the primary literature. Will use the following text:

Primate Adaptation & Evolution, 3rd Ed (2013) by John Fleagle. Academic Press

*Note on Assigned Reading: As you read through each chapter or paper, please write down several of what you consider to be the most interesting/important facts or ideas. This should be limited to just a sentence or two for each reading. Hopefully you find this useful...but, also consider this a written assignment to be turned in at the beginning of each class. These will be used in part to evaluate class attendance & participation.

Schedule (Please Note: *subject to change*):

Jan. 6	Overview	Introduction to course & discussion of research papers
8	Lecture	Introduction (cont): Evolution, Systematics, Osteology Reading: Fleagle--Chapters 1 & 2
13	Lecture	Primate Adaptations, Fossil Record & Geology Reading: Fleagle—Chapters 9 & 10
15	Discussion	Using fossils to reconstruct past behavior (e.g., diet, locomotion) Reading: 2-3 short journal articles from recent literature
20	Lecture	Primate Origins: tree shrews, flying lemurs, and plesiadapiforms Reading: Fleagle—Chapter 11
22	Discussion	Evaluating adaptive theories of Primate Origins Reading: 2-3 short journal articles from current literature
27	Lecture	Early Euprimates: Adapoids & Omomyoids Reading: Fleagle—Chapter 12
29	Office/Lab 1	Part of this day will be reserved for office/lab hours (FLMNH) to discuss topics for research papers. Times to be set up on an individual basis (contact instructor; sign-up sheet). Students <u>must</u> sign up for one of these days. If not possible-arrange an alternate time with instructor.
Feb. 3	Discussion	Eocene primates & climate Reading: 2-3 short journal articles from current literature
5	Office/Lab 2	Part of this day will be reserved for office/lab hours (FLMNH) to discuss topics for research papers. As above.
10	Lecture	Living Strepsirrhines & subfossil lemurs Reading: Fleagle—Chapter 4
12	Lecture	Anthropoid Origins and Early Anthropoids Reading: Fleagle—Chapter 13
17	Discussion	Controversies in Anthropoid Origins Reading: 2-3 short journal articles from current literature
19	Office/Lab 3	Optional: part of the day will be reserved office/lab hours (FLMNH) to discuss topics for research papers and/or work in the collections. Times to be set up on an individual basis (contact instructor; sign-up sheet).
24	Review 1	Review/questions: hand out questions for open book <i>take home exam</i> : based on lectures, book readings, and journal articles to date.

26	Test 1 Due	Discussion of take home exam questions. <i>Research paper topic summaries must be turned in by this date!</i>
Mar. 3	**No Class**	UF Spring Break
5	**No Class**	UF Spring Break
10	Lecture	Living New World Monkeys Reading: Fleagle—Chapter 5
12	Lecture	Fossil New World Monkeys Reading: Fleagle—Chapter 14
17	Discussion	Controversies: Phylogeny & Biogeography of New World Monkeys Reading: 2-3 short journal articles from current literature
19	Lecture	Living Old World Monkeys Reading: Fleagle—Chapter 6
24	**No Class**	American Association Of Physical Anthropology Annual Meeting
26	**No class**	American Association Of Physical Anthropology Annual Meeting
31	Lecture	Fossil Catarrhines and Old World Monkeys Reading: Fleagle—Chapter 16
Apr. 2	Discussion	New Discoveries: Fossil Record of Old World Monkeys Reading: 2-3 short journal articles from current literature Lecture
7	Lecture	Living Apes Reading: Fleagle—Chapter 7
9	Lecture	Fossil Apes Reading: Fleagle—Chapter 15
14	Discussion	New Discoveries: Fossil Apes Reading: 2-3 short journal articles from current literature Lecture
16	Review 2	Review/questions: hand out questions for open book <i>take home exam</i> : based on lectures, book readings, and journal articles from 2 nd half of course.
21	Test 2 Due	Discussion of take home exam questions.
27	Research Papers Due	