

Department of Anthropology

University of Florida

ANT3555/WIS4934

The Primates!

Fall 2022

Class Days and Time:

Tuesdays: 11:45-1:40; Location: LEI 0242

Thursdays: 11:45-12:35; Location: CSE E220

Office Location: Turlington Hall, B123

Instructor: Dr. Kim Valenta

Email: kimvalenta@ufl.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

Contacting the Instructor: I will be available to meet online with students for questions about the assigned readings, written or other course assignments, and general discussion about conservation, primates, and field work. *Please do not hesitate to email me*; I will respond to emails received Monday-Friday within 24 hours, and by Monday morning at the latest to emails received on Saturday-Sunday.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will provide an overview of the world's primates, and the discipline of primatology. Students will also learn how to design and implement their own mini research projects on sampling behavior and ecology. This course is a recommended precursor to all other primate courses in the department.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES: This course has been divided into three modules, each with accompanying readings, lectures, and assignments/activities. Below, I describe the goals of each module.

Module 1: Introducing Primates! For the first module of the course (Day 1 until Term Test 1), the goal is for students to develop a working knowledge of the world's ~300 living species of primates. Students will also be able to understand what traits comprise members of the Order Primates. Another key goal of Module 1 is for students to understand and be able to identify the three major suborders of primates: strepsirrhines, platyrrhines, and catarrhines.

Module 1 comprises all lectures, readings, and one film, from the first day of the class until Term Test 1.

Module 2: Behavioral Ecology of Primates. The second module of the course (end of Term Test 1 to Term Test 2) takes a closer look at what modern primatologists study most often – primate behavior, and the influence of environmental variables on primate behavior. Because most primatological work takes place in the field, this module includes two “mini lab” assignments (see Canvas for a complete description of the assignments, including a detailed rubric). Students will have the opportunity during labs to apply the knowledge of behavioral and ecological sampling from the course lectures to conduct mini research projects on organisms of their choice. Module two ends at Term Test 2, which is NON-CUMULATIVE – i.e., Term Test 2 will only include questions based on lectures, readings and assignments after Term Test 1.

Module 3: Communication and Conservation. The goal of the final course module is to introduce students to current research in primate cognition/communication, and issues in primate conservation. The goal here is to give students a working knowledge of what these different fields of research focus on, and to help students prepare for higher-level courses in primatology offered within the department. The only assignment during this module is the final exam.

Please note: **the final exam will be cumulative** – all material from the entirety of the course is examinable, but the content of the questions will be skewed towards materials after Term Test 2.

READINGS: There is one required textbook for this course: *Primates in Perspective*, 2nd edition, Campbell et al. Oxford University Press.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- **Lab Reports (20%)** - You will conduct your own behavioral and ecological sampling during two lab exercises, and write brief reports on the results of these two lab exercises, each due the class after the lab: *Ecological Field Methods Lab*, (10%), and the *Activity Budget Lab* (10%). Provide a two page, double-spaced report that includes: 1) the question you asked, 2) the methods you used, 3) a rationale for why you used this method to answer your question, 4) results, and 5) a brief discussion about whether or not you trust your results and methods to answer your question. References are not required.
- **Term Test One (25%)** - This test will be multiple choice and short answer format and will cover all preceding lecture materials and readings.
- **Term Test Two (25%)** - This test will be multiple choice and short answer format (same as Term Test One) and will cover lecture materials and readings since Term Test One.
- **Final Exam (30%)** – This test will be multiple choice and short answer format, and will cover all materials from the beginning of the course.

Please note that ALL lecture materials will be covered in exams and this includes discussions, and guest lectures. The readings are related and complementary to the lecture material. However,

lectures will not always be tightly tied to the readings and both need to be mastered to do well on exams. Students should read the assigned texts and pay close attention to areas where they overlap with the lectures.

Academic Accommodations – It is the students' responsibility to request academic accommodations. Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Missed Exams & Assignments – Missed tests and assignments will automatically receive a score of zero. In the event of an emergency or illness before an exam, please contact the instructor (kimvalenta@ufl.edu) **BEFORE** the exam. Documentation **MUST** be provided before a make-up test will be scheduled.

Returned Exams – Exams will not be returned to the student but can be discussed by appointment. Marks for exams and assignments will be posted on Canvas not more than one week after exams are taken.

No accommodation will be made for poor performance on exams. For instance, additional items cannot be submitted in lieu of exams and grades will not be curved. Be sure that you are well-prepared for exams so that you perform well when you have the opportunity.

Academic Integrity – During this course, students are expected to conduct themselves and to complete all work in accordance with the principles of honesty, accountability, fairness, and respect put forth by the University of Florida.

I provide the following links with detailed information on privacy, and accessibility.

- o [Privacy Policy](#)[Links to an external site.](#)
- o [Accessibility](#)[Links to an external site.](#)
- o [Links to an external site](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

Student on-campus resources

There are several excellent academic and other resources on campus. Please see the link below for a comprehensive list. If you have difficulty identifying which resource you require, please do not hesitate to email the course instructor.

<http://www.ufadvising.ufl.edu/student-resources/> ([Links to an external site.](#))

Student course evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner](#). Students will be

notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here.

Course schedule and readings

Date	Topic/Activity	Assigned reading	Notes
Th Aug 25	Introduction to the course		
Tu. Aug 30	Evolution 101		
Th. Sept 1	What is a primate?		
Tu. Sept 6	The Strepsirrhines	PiP Chapter 5	
Th Sept 8	The Platyrrhines	PiP Chapter 11	
Tu Sept 13	The Catarrhines	PiP Chapter 12 + 13	
Th Sept 15	The Catarrhines	PiP Chapters 18, 19, and 20	
Tu Sept 20	Term Test 1		
Th Sept 22	Movie – The Primates		
Tu Sept 27	Behavioral Data Collection	PiP Chapter 21	
Th Sept 29	Behavioral Data Collection Lab		
Tu Oct 4	Life History	PiP Chapter 25	Behavior lab due
Th Oct 6	Sexuality and Reproduction	PiP Chapter 29	
Tu Oct 11	Mate choice	PiP Chapter 30	
Th Oct 13	Socioecology	PiP Chapter 32	
Tu Oct 18	Ecological Data Collection	PiP Chapter 22	
Th Oct 20	Ecological Data Collection Lab		

Tu Oct 25	Nutritional Ecology	PiP Chapter 33
Th Oct 27	Primate-Plant interactions	PiP Chapter 34
Tu Nov 1	Primate-Animal interactions	PiP Chapter 35
Th Nov 3	Locomotion and functional morphology	PiP Chapter 36
Tu Nov 8	Term Test 2	PiP Chapter 42
Th Nov 10	Communication	PiP Chapter 42
Tu Nov 15	Tool use	PiP Chapter 43
Th Nov 17	Social Learning	PiP Chapter 44
Tu Nov 22-Th Nov 24	NO CLASS – HAPPY TURKEY DAY!	
Tu Nov 29	Primate Conservation	PiP Chapter 45
Th Dec 1	Movie: Virunga	
Tu Dec 6	FINAL EXAM	

**Ecology lab
due**