

ANT4930 Primate Minds: Primate Cognition and communication

Course: Mon Period 6 (12:50-1:40pm) LEI 242
Wed Periods 6 & 7 (12:50-2:45pm) TUR 1208H

Instructor: Stephanie Bogart, Ph.D.
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Preferred contact = **Canvas communications**

Office Hours: Thurs 10am-12pm and Fri 11am-12pm
By appt ONLY - use Microsoft [Bookings](#)

Course Description: This course will focus on cognition and communication of primates and hominins. We will explore the use of both non-human primates and humans and the methods employed to gather data. You will learn to breakdown and disseminate the theories and methods used in cognitive research and gain experience in articulating with your peers in a discussion-based format. This course will highlight a well-rounded approach by incorporating many different disciplines, such as neuroscience, biology, psychology, and anthropology.

A prior course in primate and/or human evolution is recommended (examples: ANT3514C, ANT3555, or similar). Students can use this course for a BS elective.

Student Learning Objectives:

- Identify, describe, and apply factual, conceptual, and procedural knowledge in primatology and human evolution.
- Recognize the central and cross-disciplinary concepts of human evolutionary biology, particularly in the field of primatology.
- Apply the scientific method and developing critical thinking skills from an evolutionary framework. Particularly in developing research methods, collecting data, and analyzing results.
- Examine cognition, culture, and communication in primates using the foundational knowledge of ecology and behavior.
- Communicate evolutionary principles and how to contribute to the resolution of ethical, social, and environmental issues.

Course format: This is a combination lecture and seminar-based course that will use student-led discussions over published research. Students will gain skills in reading scientific articles, leading engaging discussions, and communicating research concepts. ***The use of Canvas (eLearning) will be essential to student success in the course.*** All assignments are to be submitted through Canvas. Canvas Inbox and communication is preferred.

Required book: *No required textbook, readings will be provided.*

Schedule (subject to change)

Week	Dates	Topic	Assignments
1	Aug 23-25	W: Introductions	
2	Aug 28-Sept 1	M: Primate & human evolution overview W: Methods in cognition and communication	Readings Provided
3	Sept 4-8 9/4: Holiday	M: No Class W: Brain anatomy and research	Readings Provided Pick Discussion week
4	Sept 11-15	M: Wild primates W: Captive primates	Readings Provided
5	Sept 18-22	M: Ethics & conservation W: Discussion over article provided	Readings Provided Discussion Article due
6	Sept 25-29	M: Types of Cognition W: Learning, memory, recognition	Readings Provided
7	Oct 2-6 F: Holiday	M: Physical/Ecological Cognition W: Discussion	W: Article facilitation F: Research topic due
8	Oct 9-13	M: Social Cognition W: Discussion	W: Article facilitation
9	Oct 16-20	M: Culture W: Discussion	W: Article facilitation
10	Oct 23-27	M: Tool use W: Discussion	W: Article facilitation
11	Oct 30-Nov 3	M: Communication: lemurs & monkeys W: Discussion	W: Article facilitation F: Bibliography due
12	Nov 6-10 F: Holiday	M: Communication: Apes W: Discussion	W: Article facilitation
13	Nov 13-17	M: Evolution of cognition/communication W: Discussion	W: Article facilitation
14	Nov 20-21	M: Flex-day, prep presentations, check-in	
	Nov 22-26	Thanksgiving	
15	Nov 27-Dec 1	M: Presentations W: Presentations	M: Presentation and Slides/notes Due
16	Dec 4-6	M: Flex-day, review, course evals W: Critical Thinking Exam	

Grading: *grades will not be rounded***** Letter grades assigned based on total percent of points according to normal grade scale system. A = 93.0 or above; A- = 90-92.9; B+ = 87-89.9; B = 83-86.9; B- = 80-82.9; C+ = 77-79.9; C = 73-76.9; C- = 70-72.9; D+ = 67-69.9; D = 63-66.9; D- = 60-62.9; E = <59.9

UF grading policy: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Grading Breakdown

- 10% Participation & Attendance
- 15% Critical Thinking Exam
- 10% Literature search for discussion material

- 20% Article Facilitator (15 points)
- 15% Article Discussion Participation (2pts per article)
- 30% Research Project
 - Topic Approval - 5pts
 - Bibliography – 20pts
 - Presentation - 40pts
 - Slides and notes submission - 5pts

NOTE - All assignments should be 12pt font, 1" margins, and submitted in Microsoft format.

Participation and Attendance:

- Students must attend class.
 - Students can have 2 unexcused absences without penalty.
- Participation will be based on class discussions and activities and will vary throughout the course.
- Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Critical Thinking Exams:

- There will be 2-4 essay questions that students will have to complete, each about a page answer in length. The questions will combine elements previously discussed that promote a thoughtful interpretation of the content, readings, and discussions. Students will need to draw on resources to critically answer questions.

Literature search for discussion material:

- A major skill to master in research is finding appropriate literature to use in research and be able to critically review and discuss it. You are given the objective to find a primary research article for one of the specified discussion sessions. A sign-up period during week 3 will allow you to choose the topic that interests you the most. You then have 2 weeks (due by week 5) to search for an appropriate resource and have it approved by Dr. Bogart, this article will then be read by the entire class for discussion. Further instructions will be provided.

Article Facilitator:

- Students will choose a topic/week to be the facilitator. The article found in the literature search assignment will be used for class discussion and facilitation.
- Facilitators will prepare the other students for discussion, and lead, moderate, and ask questions. The goal is to get other students to contribute to the discussion but being well informed to answer and lead the class. Facilitators are not presenting the material.
- Facilitators and participants should think about the following article analysis elements:
 - Consider the methodology & design: What are the advantages and disadvantages of using this design? How could the authors' have used other designs? What limitations can you recognize about the particular methodology used in this article?

- Conclusions: Are the authors' conclusions warranted based on the findings? Do you agree with the conclusions of the paper? What are the strengths and limitations of this study?
- Future: Think about how you would choose to follow up this research. What would be the best next study to test this phenomenon?

Article Discussion Participation:

- All students will earn points by participating in article discussions that they are not facilitating. Each student should come to class prepared and able to contribute. Participation is graded for EACH article in the following manner:
 - 0 – absent or did not pay attention during discussion.
 - 0.5pt - listened and followed along, but did not participate in discussion.
 - 1pt – prepared for discussion, and asked or answered a thoughtful question.
 - 2pts – contributed in multiple ways to the discussion.

Research Project:

Students will work on an individual literary review project on a topic related to primate or human evolution cognition and/or communication.

- **Mandatory topic approval** (5pts) – students will pick their topic and gain approval.
- **Bibliography** (20pts) – Submit a bibliography with at least 5 peer-reviewed references that have the potential to be used for the final project. Describe why the reference is useful. Further instructions will be provided.
- **Presentation** (40pts) – 10-15 minute presentation of your research towards the end of the class to your fellow students. Further instructions will be provided.
- **Presentation slides and detailed notes** (5pts) must be turned in before the date of the presentation.

Course Policies

Assignment Extensions: Extensions on assignments will not be scheduled unless demonstrated illness, health, emergency, or major scheduling conflict with proof provided to the Instructor. An email/canvas conversation, following university procedures, is expected so that arrangements can be made with all parties (instructor and student) in agreement. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and TA and inform them of the emergency or circumstance. *E-mails/Canvas communications are strongly encouraged.*

- **Late assignments/quizzes/exams without an excuse will be reduced 5% per day late.**
- **All unexcused late work will not be accepted a week after the due date without agreement with the instructor.**
- *Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.*

Accommodations:

Students who require accommodations for learning barriers should connect with the Disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible (go to <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/accommodations/accommodation-letters/>). Ideally, student accommodation should be communicated to the instructor **before the end of the first month of the term** but can be at any time of the term if circumstances arise.

Online Materials and Communication:

- **You are responsible for materials posted on E-Learning (Canvas)** for this class at <https://elearning.ufl.edu/>, including required readings, announcements, details on assignments, and other supplementary material.
 - Canvas technical support available at <https://elearning.ufl.edu/student-help-faqs/>.
- The instructor uses email to make general class announcements or to contact you directly about your work. **You are responsible for checking your official UF email regularly**. There are no allowances for students who fail to read their email announcements or whose inboxes are full at the time an announcement is sent.

Course Evaluations – GatorEvals:

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. 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 <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Student Conduct and Academic Honesty and Integrity: Cheating, copying other's work, plagiarism, and other acts of academic misconduct are unethical. UF and the instructor consider these to be serious offenses. UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: *"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."* The Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/students/student-conduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

Harassment and Discrimination:

“Harassment” is defined as conduct that (1) is of any type (written, oral, graphic, or physical), (2) is directed towards or against a person because of their personal status (i.e., race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, political affiliation, national origin, age, disability, marital status, pregnancy or others), and that (3) unreasonably interferes with the individual’s work, education, or participation in activities or programs at UF or a working or learning environment that a reasonable person find threatening. “Discrimination” is defined as a conduct adversely affects any aspect of an individual’s employment, education, or participation in activities or programs at UF, is based on one or more personal characteristics listed above. Any student who feels that his/her rights have been violated may speak to the instructor who will direct the complaint through the proper university channels, or the student may directly file a complaint with UF Department of Human Resources.

“The University of Florida has zero tolerance for sexual discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic abuse or stalking.” <https://titleix.ufl.edu/>

Gender Equity Statement

The University of Florida is committed to providing a safe, productive learning environment free of sex-based discrimination and misconduct. Sex-based discrimination, sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and any other nonconsensual behavior of a sexual nature), and relationship violence are antithetical to the university’s mission and values, violate university policies, and may also violate federal and state law. If you or someone you know has experienced sex-based discrimination, sexual violence, and/or harassment by any member of the university community, please visit www.titleix.ufl.edu to access information about university support and resources. If you would like to make a report please contact UF’s Title IX Coordinator at (352) 275-1242 or by e-mail at inform@titleix.ufl.edu. Additionally, reports can be made through the [Online Portal](#)

Campus Resources:

Students experiencing personal problems that are interfering with their academic performance are encouraged to contact Student Affairs, DRC, and/or the Counseling and Wellness Center

- UF Student Affairs: <https://ufsa.ufl.edu/> or <https://care.dso.ufl.edu/>
- Disability Resource Center (DRC): www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/
- Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, 392-1575
- Health and Wellness U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or (352) 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Library Resources

The [UF Libraries](#) provide access to numerous resources and services that will help you succeed in this course. Access thousands of [online databases, books, and articles](#) or visit one of the [branch locations](#) for additional resources, services, and study spaces. Can’t find what you are looking for? And you can also [Ask A Librarian](#) for help by email, chat, text, or phone.

- Check out the [Anthropology Library Guide](#) and [Anthropology Assignment Guide](#)
- **Ginessa Mahar** (Anthropology Librarian): gjmahar@ufl.edu, office: Library West rm.500

Other Academic Resources:

- E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learningsupport@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

- Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers or presentations. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>