

ANT4930/ANG6930 Primate Minds: Primate Cognition and communication

Sections: 25951, 25952 (3 credits)

ANT4930 Prereq: 10 credits in anthropology or instructor permission

Course Meets: Tue Periods 2-3 (8:30-10:25am) DAU 342
Thur Period 3 (9:35-10:25am) DAU 342

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Stephanie Bogart (she/her)

Office: B137 Turlington Hall

Email Contact: sbogart@ufl.edu – prefer *Canvas communications*

Office Hours: T and R 11am-12pm, W 1-2pm, or by appt.

Office Hours Instructions: Use [Microsoft Bookings](#) to make an appointment. Zoom or in-person available.

Anthro main office phone: (352) 392-2253

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 and BA Anthropology elective. This course can also be used as an elective for the [Primateology Certificate](#).

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 21-22	R: Introductions	
2	Aug 25-Sept 29	T: Primate & human evolution overview R: Methods in cognition and communication	Readings Provided Grad student pick topic to lecture
3	Sept 1-5 9/1: Labor Day	T: Brain anatomy and research R: Wild Primates	Readings Provided Pick Discussion week
4	Sept 8-12	T: Captive primates R: Ethics & conservation	Readings Provided
5	Sept 15-19	T: Discussion over article provided R: Types of Cognition	Readings Provided Discussion Article due
6	Sept 22-26	T: Learning, memory, recognition R: Physical/Ecological Cognition	Readings Provided
7	Sept 29- Oct 3	T: Discussion R: Social Cognition	T: Article facilitation R: Research topic due
8	Oct 6-10	T: Discussion R: Culture	T: Article facilitation
9	Oct 13-17 F: Homecoming	T: Discussion R: Tool use	T: Article facilitation
10	Oct 20-24	T: Discussion R: Communication: lemurs & monkeys	T: Article facilitation
11	Oct 27-31	T: Discussion R: Communication: Apes	T: Article facilitation F: Bibliography due
12	Nov 3-7	T: Discussion R: Evolution of cognition/communication	T: Article facilitation
13	Nov 10-14 T: Veteran's Day	T: No Class (holiday) R: Discussion	R: Article facilitation
14	Nov 17-21	T: Research Presentations R: Research Presentations	M: Presentation and Slides/notes Due
	Nov 24-28	Thanksgiving	
15	Dec 1-3	T: Critical Thinking Exam Due	

Grading: Letter grades assigned based on total percent of points. 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 *****grades will not be rounded*****

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

Undergraduate Grading Breakdown

- 10% Attendance
- 15% Critical Thinking Exam (60pts)
- 30% Choose week to facilitate discussion (5 pts)
- Literature search for discussion material (10 pts)

- Article Facilitator (30 pts)
- 15% Article Discussion Participation (2pts per article)
- 30% Research Project
 - Topic Approval - 5pts
 - Bibliography – 20pts
 - Presentation - 40pts
 - Slides and notes submission - 10pts

Graduate Grading Breakdown

- 5% Attendance
- 15% Critical Thinking Exam (60pts)
- 20% Lead a lecture of your choice (15-20min, 30pts)
- 20% Choose week to facilitate discussion (5 pts)
 - Literature search for discussion material (10 pts)
 - Article Facilitator (30 pts)
- 10% Article Discussion Participation (2pts per article)
- 30% Research Project
 - Topic Approval - 5pts
 - Bibliography – 20pts
 - Presentation - 40pts
 - Slides and notes submission - 10pts

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

Attendance:

- Students must attend class.
 - Students can have 1 unexcused absences without penalty.

Critical Thinking Exams:

- There will be 3 essay questions to complete, each about a page answer in length (2 pages for graduate students). 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 (graduate students are required to have at least 3 resources referenced that were not used in the class).

Grad Students Only: Lead a lecture of your choice:

- You will discuss with Dr. Bogart a particular topic in the class. You will be responsible for finding resources and developing a 15-20 min lecture. Dr. Bogart will provide guidance as to a specified topic that fits with the class material. You will need to send your lecture slides to Dr. Bogart a week in advance for approval.

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** (10pts) must be turned in before the date of the presentation.

Course Policies

This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see [this link](#).

The use of cell phones during class is prohibited.

Plagiarism and AI Policy

Writing assignments will be subject to and in accordance with the student conduct code and academic honesty. Assignments will use the tool Turnitin to assess plagiarism and are subject to [ChatGPT/AI](#) detection. Assignments will be checked by the instructional team if more than 20% of the assignment suggests the content did not come from the student or is not properly cited. If there is any evidence of violation of the [Student Honor Code](#), that suggests the student *has not written the majority of the content on their own and is egregiously plagiarized*, the instructor may do one or more of the following: ask the student to redo the assignment, deduct major points from the score, or receive a *grade of zero* for the assignment. The instructor may offer a make-up assignment, but multiple offenses will be reported to the Anthropology department administration for review and could result in a report to the [Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution](#) Office.

Why This Matters:

The goal of this course is to help you develop your own writing skills and critical thinking. While AI tools can be helpful, over-reliance on them can hinder your learning and growth. If you are unsure whether your intended use of AI tools is appropriate, please consult me or this [UF guide on AI use](#) before proceeding.

For Non-WR assignments: The use of AI tools can enhance learning and provide support in certain areas. However, their use must align with the goals of this course and maintain academic integrity. *If you use generative AI, acknowledge how it was used, how much, and cite the tool.*

Permitted Uses:

- *Idea generation:* You may use AI to brainstorm topics, generate outlines, or assist with academic planning provided the final work is your own.
- *Clarification:* You may use AI to clarify concepts or learn about course-related topics, but ensure you verify the information with reliable sources.
- *Grammar and Style:* AI tools may be used for proofreading, but the content and ideas must be yours.

Prohibited Uses:

- Submitting AI-generated work as your own. All submitted assignments must reflect your original thoughts, analysis, and effort.
- Using AI tools during quizzes, tests, or other assessments unless explicitly permitted.
- Copying and pasting AI-generated text without proper attribution or adaptation.

Religious observances

(e.g., Students seeking modification of due dates for class participation, assignments, and exams for religious reasons should contact the instructor well in advance to request this modification, which will then be granted.)

Procedure for conflict resolution

Any issues, disagreements or grade disputes should be discussed first between the instructor and the student. If the problem cannot be resolved, please contact Prof. John Krigbaum (krigbaum@ufl.edu, (352) 294-7540), Chair of Anthropology. Be prepared to provide documentation

of the problem, as well as all graded materials for the semester. Issues that cannot be resolved departmentally will be referred to the University Ombuds Office (<http://www.ombuds.ufl.edu>[Links to an external site.](#); 352-392-1308) or the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu>[Links to an external site.](#); 352-392-1261).

Assignment Extensions

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

- **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>.*

Online Materials and Communication

- We will be using **chapter quizzes for the textbook**. This will use the opt-in option through Canvas to use **McGraw-Hill's Connect application** to view and take quizzes from the text.
 - All required online assignments and the interactive eBook for this course are available in **Connect**. To get started, click the first Connect assignment in your Canvas course. (In-print version can be purchased for extra fee within Connect)
 - Sign in or create a new account using access code.
 - In Connect, every question links directly to the eBook. When you are struggling with a question you can go directly to the explanation in the eBook for help. You can access the eBook from any computer or device, any time.
- **You are responsible for materials posted on E-Learning (Canvas)** 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 and the TAs may use email to make general class announcements or to contact you directly about your work. **You are responsible for checking your official UF email regularly** to be aware of communication from your instructors. 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

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](#). Further, as this class requires students to complete a bibliography, research paper, or project, both the [Anthropology Library Guide](#) and the [Anthropology Assignment Guide](#) may be of assistance. You can also contact the [Anthropology Librarian](#) directly for help with developing your research topic/question, searching for sources, and evaluating information. And you can also [Ask A Librarian](#) for help by email, chat, text, or phone.

- **This class has a dedicated Library page:** <http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/anthroUF/ANT2301>
- Guinnessa Mahar (Anthropology Librarian): gimahar@ufl.edu, office: Library West rm.500

