

Anthropology 3953 – Primates

Spring 2008

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Classroom: Dale Hall 031	Office phone: 325-9179
Time: MWF 9:30-10:20 AM	Office hours: MWF 11:00 AM -12:00 PM, or by appt
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Introduction: This course will look at primates, our closest living relatives, with particular emphasis on the evolution and ecology of primate behavior. Topics covered will include mating and foraging strategies, social dynamics, communication and cognition, community ecology, and conservation. We will draw on the full panoply of living non-human primates, and examine the interactions between humans and primates in a variety of settings.

Required readings:

- *Primate Behavioral Ecology* (3rd edition), by Karen B. Strier
- *Sex and Friendship in Baboons*, by Barbara B. Smuts
- Additional readings will be made available through the class website on [Desire2Learn](#)
- I will also assign several BBC radio programmes on primates; these will be made available as mp3 files on [Desire2Learn](#)

Course Requirements:

1) 3 exams (100 points each)	300 pts
2) 1 out-of-class writing assignment	70 pts
3) 8 in-class activities (7 points each)	56 pts
4) 1 online quiz on academic misconduct	10 pts
Total	436 pts

1) The exams are closed-note, closed-book, and are not cumulative. They will consist mostly of short answer questions and essays, with a smattering of fill-in-the-blank/true-false. The lectures and material covered by each exam are indicated in the schedule below. The final exam is simply another exam; it is not cumulative.

Please note that make-up exams will be given only when (a) there are exceptional circumstances preventing you from taking the exam on the scheduled day (e.g., a serious illness requiring hospitalization, death of a family member), (b) you can provide written proof of the exceptional circumstances (e.g., a note from a physician), and (c) you notify me of the situation prior to the time of the exam. Outside of these circumstances, you will receive a zero for a missed exam. Make-up exams are not granted for dental appointments, flat tires, etc.

2) The out-of-class writing assignment is a short paper (about 5-6 pages in length) that is due at the beginning of class on April 11. It is to be sole-authored, that is, written by you and you alone. Further details will be given later, well in advance of the due date.

3) The in-class activities are, as the name implies, activities we will perform in class. These may consist of writing assignments following class discussion, group activities in which you will assist each other, brief exercises on a current topic, etc. They are to be handed in at the end of the class, and they cannot be made up if missed, except for officially excused absences. Each assignment is worth 7 points. I will collect 9 assignments, although only 8 will count towards your grade. This means that you may miss one in-class activity with no penalty.

4) The online quiz on academic misconduct is simply a short quiz, available on [Desire2Learn](#) that verifies that you are informed about academic misconduct, cheating, etc. You can retake the test until you get a perfect score.

There will be no extra credit. Your total point score, divided by the highest score achieved in the class, will determine your final grade. So, for example, if the highest score in the class is 430 points, your grade will be (your score)/430.

Other Requirements and Expectations:

- 1) Log in to [Desire2Learn](#) (D2L, <http://learn.ou.edu>) as soon as possible, and familiarize yourself with the site. You can always obtain a copy of this syllabus on D2L. Announcements, class notes, etc., will be posted on the site, and you are expected to check D2L regularly.
- 2) You should read (or, in some cases, listen to) all assigned material **before** class meets. There is a substantial reading load for this course, and if you fall behind it will entail a large amount of work to catch up. The readings will form the basis of the class discussions and in-class assignments; additionally, each exam will contain questions based on material covered only in the readings.
- 3) You are expected to come to class and participate in class discussions. Attendance is graded indirectly, through the in-class assignments. Class participation is not explicitly graded, but it is expected that you will contribute to the discussions to the best of your ability. Lecture materials and videos presented during class time will form an important component of the exams; missing this material will disadvantage you. Lastly, the Faculty Handbook notes that “When absences seriously affect a student’s class work, the instructor will report this fact to the Admissions and Records Office, where the information will be directed to the dean concerned.”
- 4) You are expected to take notes in class. The overheads used in class will be made available on [Desire2Learn](#) (usually within 24 hours after class). However, the overheads may be sketchy and incomplete, and I always discuss material verbally in class that is not written down on the slides. This oral material is important, and will be included on the exams. Based on experience from previous semesters, I have found that students who rely solely on the overheads rather than taking notes in class receive lower grades on exams.
- 5) Please act respectfully and courteously toward the rest of the class, including the instructor. This means not reading newspapers during class, not using cell phones or sending text messages (cell phones should be turned off during class), not engaging in conversations with your classmates, and so forth. I reserve the option of deducting points for persistent disrespectful behavior.
- 6) Academic misconduct—cheating and plagiarism—will be treated as a serious offense. Cheating includes the use of notes or other materials during exams and discussion of exam questions with other students during the exam period. Plagiarism includes the presentation of

the work or ideas of others as your own. You are expected to know and understand university policy regarding academic misconduct (see <http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity>). Academic misconduct may result in severe penalties, including an F in the course, as well as further sanctions from the provost such as censure, suspension, or expulsion.

- 7) All students in this class are expected to sign the Honor Pledge on all assignments (exams and the out-of-class writing assignment). The Honor Pledge reads: “*On my honor, I affirm that I have neither given nor received inappropriate aid in the completion of this exercise.*” Please write or type the pledge, and sign it, for every assignment you turn in. Any assignment turned in without the signed pledge will not be accepted or graded. More information on the Honor Pledge is available at <http://www.ou.edu/honorcouncil/FAQ.html>.
- 8) The University of Oklahoma is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for all students with disabilities. Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services prior to receiving accommodations in this course. The Office of Disability Services is located in Goddard Health Center, Suite 166, phone 405/325-3852 or TDD only 405/325-4173. Students whose first language is not English should discuss any concerns or needs with me as soon as possible.
- 9) Students who need to miss a class because of a religious holiday, a university-sponsored activity (e.g., a scholarly competition, fine arts performances, an academic field trip) or a legally required activity (e.g., emergency military service, jury duty), should contact me in advance regarding their absence from class.
- 10) If you prefer to use a non-OU address for your e-mail: please either check your OU address regularly, or set your OU address to autoforward mail to your preferred address, so that you can receive important announcements and last-minute information.

Schedule and Readings – Chapters from the Strier and Smuts books are indicated. Other Readings and audio files are available on D2L.

(The course schedule and readings are subject to change. You will be fully informed of any changes, and the updated syllabus will be available on [Desire2Learn](#).)

Jan 16, 18, 23, 25: Introduction to Primate Studies

- Strier Ch 1
- Goodall, Jane. 1971. Ch 3 (“First observations”), *In the Shadow of Man*, Mariner Books.
- **Note: no class Jan 21 (Martin Luther King Day)**

Jan 28, 30, Feb 01: Traits, Trends and Taxonomy

- Strier Ch 2
- Jolly, Allison. 1985. The evolution of primate behavior. *American Scientist* 73:230-239.

Feb 04, 06, 08: Primates Past to Present

- Strier Ch 3
- BBC audio file: “Life with Lemurs”

Feb 11, 13, 15, 18: Evolution and Social Behavior

- Strier Ch 4

- Smuts Ch's 1, 2

Feb 20: Exam #1

- Covers all material from Jan 16 – Feb 18

Feb 22, 25, 27, 29: Evolution and Sex

- Strier Ch 5
- Smuts Ch's 3, 4

Mar 03, 05, 07: Food, Foraging and Females

- Strier Ch 6
- Smuts Ch's 5, 6

Mar 10, 12, 14: Female Strategies

- Strier Ch 7
- Smuts Ch's 7, 8
- **Note: no class Mar 17 – 21 (Spring Break)**

Mar 24, 26, 28: Male Strategies

- Strier Ch 8
- Smuts Ch's 9, 10

Mar 31: Exam #2

- Covers all material from Feb 22 – Mar 28

Apr 02, 04, 07, 09: Development Stages Through the Life Span

- Strier Ch 10
- Walters, Jeffrey R. 1986. Transition to adulthood. In *Primate Societies*, B.B. Smuts, D.L. Cheney, R.M. Seyfarth, R.W. Wrangham, and T.T. Struhsaker (eds.) Chicago: Univ of Chicago Press.

Apr 11, 14, 16, 18: Communication and Cognition

- Strier Ch 11
- BBC audio file: "Life with Kanzi: An interview with a bonobo"
- **Out-of-class writing assignment due on April 11!**

Apr 21, 23, 25: Community Ecology

- Strier Ch 12
- Stanford, Craig. 1995. "To catch a colobus." *Natural History* 104(1): 48-55.
- Goodall, Jane. 1971. Ch 16 ("Baboons and predation"), *In the Shadow of Man*, Mariner Books.

Apr 28, 30, May 02: Conservation

- Strier Ch 13
- BBC audio file: "Apes or People First"

Tuesday, May 06: FINAL EXAM (8:00 AM - 10:00 AM)

- Covers all lectures and readings from Apr 02 – May 02
- A note on the timing of the final exam: this schedule is set by the University, and is beyond my power to change. Please do not ask me if you can take the final exam early so you can leave town.