

# ANTH A187: INTRODUCTION TO PRIMATE STUDIES

Item	Value
Curriculum Committee Approval Date	02/23/2022
Top Code	220200 - Anthropology
Units	3 Total Units
Hours	54 Total Hours (Lecture Hours 54)
Total Outside of Class Hours	0
Course Credit Status	Credit: Degree Applicable (D)
Material Fee	No
Basic Skills	Not Basic Skills (N)
Repeatable	No
Open Entry/Open Exit	No
Grading Policy	Standard Letter (S), • Pass/No Pass (B)
Associate Arts Local General Education (GE)	• Area 4 Social and Behavioral Sciences 4C Behavioral Science (OD3)
Associate Science Local General Education (GE)	• Area 4 Social and Behavioral Sciences (OSD)
California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC)	• Cal-GETC 4 Social & Behavioral Sciences (4) • Cal-GETC 4A Anthropology (4A)
Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC)	• IGETC 4 Social&Behavioral Sci (4) • IGETC 4A Anthropology (4A)
California State University General Education Breadth (CSU GE-Breadth)	• CSU D1 Anthropology (D1)

## Course Description

This is an introductory course that will explore the evolution of primate behavior and morphology, with special attention to nonhuman primates. The course will enhance the understanding of human evolution by emphasizing nonhuman primate research. Topics include primate taxonomic classifications, social behaviors, foraging behavior, mating behavior, cognition, conservation, fossil record, and ecological conditions. Students will be introduced to the scientific method and behavioral observation methods. This course may include a zoo trip. ADVISORY: ENGL A099. Transfer Credit: CSU; UC.

## Course Level Student Learning Outcome(s)

1. Explain the variation in social behavioral patterns observed in nonhuman primates.
2. Explain primate diversity by discussing the evolution of biological adaptations for major primate groups

## Course Objectives

- 1. Identify key adaptations for the major taxonomic groups within the primate order.

- 2. Discuss the scientific method and its use in primatological research.
- 3. Explain the significance of primatological research to understanding human evolution.
- 4. Identify key fossils relating to primate evolution.
- 5. Explain the evolution of primate sociality and cooperation.
- 6. Identify ecological and social factors affecting foraging behavior.
- 7. Discuss sexual selection theory as it applies to mating and parental strategies.
- 8. Explain the differences between human and nonhuman primate communication.
- 9. Discuss the theories regarding the evolution of primate cognition.
- 10. Discuss major threats to nonhuman primate survival and conservation efforts. Special emphasis will be placed on the great apes.

## Lecture Content

Primate Classifications General Primate Characteristics Strepsirrhine (Prosimians) Lemuroidea Lorisoidea Haplorhines (Anthropoids) Tarsiiformes (included in 1.B. when using Prosimian/Anthropoid) Platyrrhines Cebidae Atelidae Catarrhines Cercopithecoidea Colobinae Cercopithecinae Hominoidea Hylobatidae Hominidae Ponginae Gorillinae Homininae Panini Hominini Forms of Locomotion Vertical Clinger and Leapers Quadrupeds arboreal Terrestrial Suspensory Biped Field and Research Methods Scientific Method Sampling techniques for conducting behavioral observations Primate Evolution –includes the major fossil and environmental conditions relating to primate evolution Paleocene Eocene Euprimates Oligocene Anthropoids Miocene Apes Plio-pleistocene Australopithecines and Paranthropines Holocene Primate diversity Evolutionary Theory Mechanisms of evolutionary change Sexual Selection Theory Kin Selection Theory Social Behavior Evolution of Cooperation Theory of Kin Selection Hamilton's Rule Altruism and Reciprocal Altruism Social Organizations Theories regarding the evolution of social living Monogamy Solitary (Extreme polygyny) Polyandry Single male-polygyny Multiple male-polygyny Dominance Hierarchies and Egalitarian groups Foraging Behavior and Diet Food Distribution and Quality Food Acquisition Foraging Hunting Tool use Dietary Classifications and associated adaptations Mating and Reproductive Strategies Variation across social groups and sexes Sexual Selection Theory Evolution of sexual dimorphism Communication Modes of Communication Tactile Odor Visual Vocal Vocalizations vs. Language Evolution of Primate Intelligence Nonhuman Primate Culture Conservation Great Ape Conservation Major Threats to primate survival Conservation Efforts

## Method(s) of Instruction

- Lecture (02)
- DE Online Lecture (02X)

## Instructional Techniques

1. Audio and/or Visual Presentations (Power points, videos, animations, 3D images, etc ) used during lecture and/or uploaded to the course management system 2. Collaborative Group Work 3. Skill-building Exercises 4. Small group or directed class discussions (Online will use the course management system's discussion forums or blogs) 5. Student-instructor conferences (Online via chat, video conferencing, and/or email) to provide assistance or feedback on assignments and exams 6. Weekly email announcements (Online) 7. Course management system's

Assignment tools will be used for electronic submission and to provide feedback for all essays, short answers, and writing assignment.

## Reading Assignments

Students will spend 2 hours per week reading assigned chapters from the textbook, additional course handouts, and/or websites which emphasize key concepts (i.e. mating strategies, modes of communication, foraging, etc...) to facilitate participation in class discussions.

## Writing Assignments

Students will spend two hours per week working on projects that utilize the scientific method to investigate topics of their choice. In the papers, they will be required to include research from peer-reviewed articles. Students will spend two hours per week researching and writing papers that compare and contrast behavioral or morphological trait in nonhuman primates to humans. The paper will require the use of research from peer-reviewed articles.

## Out-of-class Assignments

Students will survey and conduct behavioral observations on various primate species at a local zoo. Observation periods span 2 hours per species. Students will spend two to four hours conducting literature searches of the library database and writing article summaries on topics covered in the course.

## Demonstration of Critical Thinking

1. Students will communicate in writing their own perspective or positions and support their positions with peer-reviewed articles. 2. During small group activities, students will discuss various topics (e.g habitat destruction, poaching) to explore the implications and consequences faced by nonhuman primates. 3. Students will answer essay questions requiring them to analyze the perspectives of others.

## Required Writing, Problem Solving, Skills Demonstration

1. Students will work in small groups to discuss the research methodologies and identify the uses and limitations. 2. Students will work individually or in groups to develop conservation plans for local people interested in assisting the survival and habitat preservation of nonhuman primates.

## Eligible Disciplines

Anthropology: Master's degree in anthropology or archaeology OR bachelor's degree in either of the above AND master's degree in sociology, biological sciences, forensic sciences, genetics or paleontology OR the equivalent. Master's degree required. Anthropology: Master's degree in anthropology or archaeology OR bachelor's degree in either of the above AND master's degree in sociology, biological sciences, forensic sciences, genetics or paleontology OR the equivalent. Master's degree required.

## Textbooks Resources

1. Required Redmond, I. . The Primate Family Tree, ed. Firefly Books, 2011 2. Required King, G.E. Primate Behavior and Human Origins, 1 ed. Routledge, 2016 Rationale: .