

ENVST-UA 450.003 // ANST-UA 600.001  
Primate Behavior & Conservation

**Course Information**

**Term/Time:** Fall 2014/TR 8:00-9:15AM

**Location:** Waverly Bldg., Rm. 569

**Instructor:** Christine Webb

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**Office:** 285 Mercer St., Rm. 1002

**Office hours:** R 9:30-11AM & by appt.

**Course Description**

This course progresses through the study of primate behavior to welfare to conservation. It emphasizes the links between these fields, where research has important overlap, but often lacks integration and real-world application. A significant aspect of this class is then to discuss the values and ethics within and *between* each of these domains (e.g. how does behavioral research translate to welfare/conservation, what are the possibilities and limits, which issues warrant further study and funding, etc.). We will cover topics ranging from primate sociality and cognition to perceived similarities between human and nonhuman primates, raising questions about primate ‘elitism,’ legal ‘personhood,’ and animal ‘culture.’ As such, the course will cover both traditional and contemporary debates in primatology, encouraging students to think along cross-disciplinary lines when it comes to theory and practice.

**Schedule**

Class/Date	Readings/Media (in suggested order)	Assignments/Exams
<b>Week One: What is Primatology?</b>		
1	T 9/2	Course Introduction (no readings)
2	R 9/4	<b>Setchell (2013)</b> . Editorial: The top 10 questions in primatology. <i>International Journal of Primatology</i> , 34: 647-661.
<b>Week Two: Primate Characteristics + Taxonomy</b>		
3	T 9/9	<b>Grehan (2010)</b> . Primate taxonomy. In H. Birk (Ed.) <i>21<sup>st</sup> century anthropology: A reference handbook</i> (pp 612-623). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE. <b>Martin (2012)</b> . Primates. <i>Current Biology</i> , 22(18): R785-R790. Taxonomy handouts
4	R 9/11	<b>Groves (2004)</b> . The what, why and how of primate taxonomy. <i>International Journal of Primatology</i> , 25(5): 1105-1126. <b>Rylands &amp; Mittermeier (2014)</b> . Primate taxonomy: Species and conservation. <i>Evolutionary Anthropology</i> 23: 8-10.
<b>Week Three: NHP Conservation - Status</b>		
5	T 9/16	<b>Chapman &amp; Peres (2001)</b> . Primate conservation in the new millennium: The role of scientists. <i>Evolutionary Anthropology</i> , 10: 16-33. *Review current <u>threats &amp; justifications</u> in: <b>Mittermeier et al. (2012)</b> . Primates in peril: The world's 25 most endangered primates 2012-2014. Report, IUCN/SSC, IPS, CI, & BCSF Listen: NPR's <a href="#">Prioritizing the Globe's Most Endangered Primates</a>
6	R 9/18	<b>Chapman et al. (2000)</b> . Long-term effects of logging on African primate communities: A 28-year comparison from Kibale National Park, Uganda. <i>Conservation Biology</i> , 14: 207-217. <b>Peres (2000)</b> . Effects of subsistence hunting on vertebrate community structure in Amazonian forests. <i>Conservation Biology</i> , 14: 240-253.

Week Four: Evidence-Based Conservation			
7	T 9/23	TBD	Assignment 1 due (Presentations)
8	R 9/25	TBD	
Week Five: Snapshot of NHP Behavior			
9	T 9/30	<p><b>*Wrangham (1980)</b>. An ecological model of female-bonded primate groups. <i>Behaviour</i>, 75(3/4): 262-286.</p> <p><b>van Hooff &amp; van Schaik (1994)</b>. Male bonds: Affiliative relationships among nonhuman primate males. <i>Behaviour</i>, 130(3/4): 309-337.</p> <p>Behavior handouts</p>	
10	R 10/2	<p><b>Sapolsky (2005)</b>. The influence of social hierarchy on primate health. <i>Science</i>, 308(5722): 648-652.</p> <p><b>Chapais (2001)</b>. Primate nepotism: What is the explanatory value of kin selection? <i>International Journal of Primatology</i>, 22(2): 203-229.</p> <p><b>Parker (2007)</b>. Swingers. <i>The New Yorker</i> (Jul 30 2007): 48-61.</p>	
Week Six: The Conservation – Behavior Interface			
11	T 10/7	<p><b>*Strier (1997)</b>. Behavioral ecology and conservation biology of primates and other animals. <i>Advances in the Study of Behaviour</i>, 26: 101-138.</p> <p><b>Sutherland (1998)</b>. The importance of behavioural studies in conservation. <i>Animal Behaviour</i>, 56: 801-809.</p> <p><b>Caro (2007)</b>. Behavior and conservation: A bridge too far? <i>TREE</i>, 22(8): 394-400.</p>	
12	R 10/9	<p><b>Hoelzer et al (2004)</b>. Dispersal and the population genetics of primate species. In: <i>Kinship &amp; Behavior in Primates</i> (B. Chapais &amp; C. Berman, Eds.). Oxford University Press.</p> <p><b>Ryan et al. (2013)</b>. Interactions between social structure, demography, and transmission determine disease persistence in primates. <i>PLoS ONE</i>, 8(10): e76863.</p>	
Week Seven: More Behavior – Sociality			
	T 10/14	NO CLASS – enjoy Fall Break. Watch <i>Life in the Trees</i>	
13	R 10/16	<p><b>Kappeler &amp; van Schaik (2002)</b>. Evolution of primate social systems. <i>International Journal of Primatology</i>, 23: 707-723.</p> <p><b>Silk (2007)</b>. Social components of fitness in primate groups. <i>Science</i>, 317(5843): 1347-1351.</p> <p><b>Cheney et al. (1986)</b>. Social relationships and social cognition in nonhuman primates. <i>Science</i>, 234(4782): 1361-1366.</p>	
Week Eight: The Social Behavior – Cognition Interface			
14	T 10/21	<p><b>Byrne &amp; Bates (2010)</b>. Primate social cognition: Uniquely primate, uniquely social, or just unique? <i>Neuron</i>, 65: 815-830.</p> <p><b>Dunbar (1998)</b>. The social brain hypothesis. <i>Evolutionary Anthropology</i>, 6(5): 178-190.</p> <p><b>Barrett et al. (2003)</b>. Primate cognition: From ‘what now’ to ‘what if?’ <i>TRENDS in Cognitive Sciences</i>, 7(11): 494-497.</p>	
15	R 10/23	--	Midterm Exam
Week Nine: 98.6%, Theory of Mind, Anthropomorphism, are NHPs special?			
16	T 10/28	<p><b>Calcagno &amp; Fuentes (2012)</b>. What makes us human? Answers from evolutionary anthropology. <i>Evolutionary Anthropology</i>, 21: 182-194.</p> <p><b>de Veer &amp; van den Bos (1999)</b>. A critical review of methodology and interpretation of mirror self-recognition research in nonhuman primates. <i>Animal Behaviour</i>, 58: 459-468.</p>	
17	R 10/30	<p><b>Vitale (2011)</b>. Primatology between feelings and science: A personal experience perspective. <i>American Journal of Primatology</i>, 73: 214-219.</p> <p><b>Asquith (2011)</b>. Of bonds and boundaries: What is the modern role of anthropomorphism in primatological studies? <i>American Journal of Primatology</i>, 73: 238-244.</p> <p><b>Whiten et al. (1999)</b>. Cultures in chimpanzees. <i>Nature</i>, 399: 682-685.</p>	

Week Ten: Ethnoprimatology		
18	T 11/4	<b>Fuentes (2012)</b> . Ethnoprimatology and the anthropology of the human-primate interface. <i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i> , 41: 101-117. * <b>Radhakrishna (2013)</b> . The gulf between men and monkeys. <i>Developments in Primatology: Progress &amp; Prospects</i> , 34: 3-9.
19	R 11/6	TBD
<b>Week Eleven: Primate 'Personhood'</b>		
20	T 11/11	TBD
21	R 11/13	<b>Siebert (2014)</b> . The rights of man...and beast. <i>The New York Times Magazine</i> (Apr 27, 2014). Watch: NYTimes Op-Doc: <a href="#">Animals are Persons Too</a>
<b>Week Twelve: Primate Welfare</b>		
22	T 11/18	<b>Honess &amp; Marin (2006)</b> . Enrichment and aggression in primates. <i>Neuroscience &amp; Biobehavioral Reviews</i> , 30: 413-436. <b>Rennie &amp; Buchanan-Smith (2006)</b> . Refinement of the use of non-human primates in scientific research. Part II: Housing, husbandry, and acquisition. <i>Animal Welfare</i> , 2006: 215-238. <b>Guy et al. (2014)</b> . Welfare based primate rehabilitation as a potential conservation strategy: Does it measure up? <i>Primates</i> , 55: 139-147.
23	R 11/20	Listen: <a href="#">RadioLab: Inside Out Cage</a> <b>Savage-Rumbaugh et al. (2007)</b> . Welfare of apes in captive environments: Comments on, and by, a specific group of apes. <i>Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science</i> , 10: 7-19. <b>Whitehouse et al. (2013)</b> . The impact of cognitive testing on the welfare of group housed primates. <i>PLoS ONE</i> , 8(11): e78308
<b>Week Thirteen: Primates as Pets</b>		
24	T 11/25	<b>Soulsbury et al. (2009)</b> . The welfare and suitability of primates kept as pets. <i>Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science</i> , 12: 1-20. Listen: <a href="#">RadioLab: Lucy</a>
	R 11/27	NO CLASS – enjoy Thanksgiving Break. Watch <i>Project Nim</i>
<b>Week Fourteen: Primates in Research</b>		
25	T 12/2	<b>Hahn (1971)</b> . A reporter at large: On the side of the Apes-II. <i>The New Yorker</i> (Apr 24 1971): 46-91. <b>Abbott (2014)</b> . Biomedicine: The changing face of primate research. <i>Nature</i> , 506(7486): 24-26. <b>Ferdowsian &amp; Fuentes (2014)</b> . Harms and deprivation of benefits for nonhuman primates in research. <i>Theoretical Medicine &amp; Bioethics</i> , 35(2): 143-146. Listen: NPR's <a href="#">Rule Would List All Chimps As Endangered. Even Lab Animals</a>
26	R 12/4	<b>Feistner &amp; Price (2002)</b> . Zoos and universities: collaborating for primate conservation. <i>Evolutionary Anthropology</i> , 11(S1): 7-11. <b>Fedigan (2010)</b> . Ethical issues faced by field primatologists: Asking the relevant questions. <i>American Journal of Primatology</i> , 72: 754-771.
<b>Week Fifteen: Synthesis + Review</b>		
27	T 12/9	<b>Oates (2013)</b> . Primate conservation: Unmet challenges and the role of the IPS. <i>International Journal of Primatology</i> , 34: 235-245. <b>Caro &amp; Sherman (2013)</b> . 18 reasons why animal behaviorists avoid involvement in conservation. <i>Animal Behaviour</i> , 85: 305-312. <b>Chapman &amp; Gogarten (2012)</b> . Primate conservation: Is the cup half empty or half full? <i>Nature Education Knowledge</i> , 4(2): 1-12.
28	R 12/11	Course Review (no readings)

Assignment 2 due  
(Presentations)

Assignment 3 due  
(Grant Proposal)

\*Note that for starred readings, you are only required to read the subset of pages/sections listed.

TBD indicates student-led discussions, for which student-selected readings will be added to the syllabus.

**Grade**

Participation & attendance (**20%** of total grade)

2 mid-term assignments each worth 10% (**20%** of total grade)

1 final assignment (**20%** of total grade)

Mid-term exam (**20%** of total grade)

Final exam (**20%** of total grade)

—Syllabus is subject to revision. Updates will be posted on NYU Classes —