

Anthropology 466/566

Primate Feeding and Nutrition

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CRN:

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide students with an advanced understanding of primate feeding and nutrition from a comparative evolutionary perspective. We begin with an introduction to the basic nutritional components of food and the comparative anatomy of the primate gastrointestinal tract. We will explore the diversity of anatomical and behavioral adaptations found among primate species, including prosimians, monkeys, apes, and humans. We will examine the challenges of finding and procuring enough food for survival and reproduction and the importance of adaptations characteristic of the Primate Order in meeting these challenges. This course concludes with a discussion and critical evaluation of the implications these concepts have for understanding the evolution of human dietary strategies and its application to current issues in human nutrition.

COURSE MATERIALS

I have selected readings from a variety of sources, all of which are available on blackboard.

In addition to the readings, you will be viewing video clips and exploring websites. You will find links to this material in the Weekly Lessons and in the announcement section as I add them.

COURSE OUTCOMES

This is an advanced course and I expect students to be motivated and self-directed enough to complete assigned readings, research and read literature for term projects, contribute to class discussions, and complete assignments in a timely manner. After completing the class, you should be able to:

- 1.) Describe the basic feeding behaviors of primates.
- 2.) Discuss the evolutionary importance of primate feeding as it relates to humans.
- 3.) Detail the link between food and other behaviors such as sex, aggression, and cooperation.
- 4.) Explain the anatomical traits associated with eating.
- 5.) Think critically about the roles feeding and nutrition play in human and non-human primates.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Each week, you will be presented a lesson plan that will contain a lecture, readings, a discussion or written assignment, and/or a quiz. There will also be additional materials that may include web videos or online resources.

Quizzes: Each quiz is worth 10 points and consists of multiple choice, matching, or fill in the blank questions. As this is an online course, the quizzes are timed. You will have 30 minutes once the quiz has been opened. Check below for due dates. If your quiz crashes, contact me ASAP and I can reset it. You get ONE reset so make sure that you are taking the quiz in a secure online environment.

Discussion Assignments: These assignments are worth 10 points. The purpose of these assignments is to get you thinking about the materials presented in each lesson plan. I am looking for engagement with the subject materials, critical thinking skills, research, and good writing skills. Check below for due dates.

Written Assignments: These assignments are worth 10 points each. I expect engagement with the course materials, research outside of the course content, and a display of critical thinking skills.

Midterm Exam: There will be an essay midterm exam during Week 5.

Final Term paper: Each student will be required to complete a research paper/proposal on an approved feeding and/or nutrition-related subject (see "research paper/proposal" project description on blackboard). The student will seek approval (in writing: 1 page description of proposed topic) of the species and subject area by Week 4, submit an outline of the project by Week 7 (w/ references), and turn-in the completed project at the end of Week 10. This project is worth 100 points.

SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Week One

Introduction, Terms, Basic Categories and Concepts

Week One Quiz and Assignments due by Friday, 5PM, Jan. 9th

Week Two

Dietary Anatomy and Adaptations

Week Two Quiz and Assignments due by Friday, 5PM, Jan. 16th

Week Three

Adaptations Continued

Week Three Quiz and Assignments due by Friday, 5PM, Jan. 23rd

Week Four

Food and Society

Week Four Quiz and Assignments due by Friday, 5PM, Jan. 30th

Week Five

Sex and Food

Essay Exam – Due by 5PM, Feb. 6th

Week Six

Violence and Food

Week Six Quiz and Assignments due by Friday, 5PM, Feb. 13th

Week Seven

Meat

Week Seven Quiz and Assignments due by Friday, 5PM, Feb. 20th

Week Eight

Intelligence

Week Eight Quiz and Assignments due by Friday, 5PM, Feb. 27th

Week Nine

Human Evolution

Week Nine Quiz and Assignments due Friday, 5PM, Mar. 6th

Week Ten

Conclusions

Final Paper-due by Friday, 5PM, Mar. 13th

GRADING POLICY

Points	Activity
80	Nine Quizzes (80 points each)
80	Three Discussions (10 points each) and 5 written assignments (10 points each)
50	Midterm Essays
100	Final Term Paper
310	Total Possible Points

There will be no make-up exams or late work accepted without a documented reason.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ADA Statement: Students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations, who have any emergency medical information the instructor should know of, or who need special arrangements in the event of evacuation, should make an appointment with the instructor as early as possible, no later than the first week of the term. Students may also wish to contact UO Disability Services Office at 541-346-1155. **NOTE:** As per FERPA regulations Faculty are no longer automatically informed as to the ADA status of students. If you have special requirements, you must bring your information to me as soon as possible.

Equal Opportunity Compliance Statement: It is the policy of the University of Oregon Board of Directors that there will be no discrimination or harassment on the basis of age, disability, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status in any educational programs, activities or employment. Persons having questions about equal opportunity and non-discrimination should contact the Office of Affirmative Action at 541-346-3123

Library Services: The UO Library System web site provides general access to catalogs, resources, listing of services, etc. In addition, off-campus students now have access to library databases through a proxy server. Go to: <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/>

