

Anthropology 472/572

Primate Conservation Biology

Instructor: Dr. Michel Waller

Email: mwaller@uoregon.edu

CRN: 42204

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Of a recognized 638 primate taxa (species and subspecies), 195 are currently considered endangered or critically endangered. Nearly 90% of these endangered taxa are endemic to the planet's biodiversity hotspots and 65% come from just four countries (Madagascar, Brazil, DRC, and Indonesia (Estrada et al. 2018)). As identified by Conservation International, the hotspots are 25 eco-regions that encompass a mere 1.4% of the planet's land surface, yet contain a majority of all terrestrial faunal and floral diversity (Myers et al., 2000). Threats to the hotspots and their endangered nonhuman primate species are synonymous with threats to tropical ecosystems in general, including habitat loss and degradation, depletion of species for human consumption, and the removal of species for trade and medicinal use. The welfare of these ecosystems is inextricably linked to the activities and welfare of human populations that, in many cases, are dramatically expanding within the developing nations located throughout the tropics.

In this course, we explore the biological, ecological, and socio-cultural factors related to extinction risk and population viability of taxa within the Order Primates. Principles of conservation biology (e.g., genetic variation, population demographics, and inter-specific interactions) will be addressed in relation to primate-wide trends and characteristics. Aspects of primate life histories, reproductive biology, and social systems interact in unique ways with local patterns of habitat loss, forest fragmentation, and hunting practices. Finally, the interconnectedness of human and nonhuman primates will be explored on local, regional, and global scales.

COURSE MATERIALS

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

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

Upon completion of this course, students will have:

1. a more complete understanding of the ecological and economic challenges faced by non-human primates.
2. a better comprehension of the factors that affect extinction risks.
3. the ability to develop models for extinction risk analysis.

4. the ability to construct a grant proposal highlighting extinction risks, employing valid methodologies, and proposing potential solutions.
5. developed testable hypotheses that adequately address questions surrounding human-nonhuman interactions.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Each week, you will be presented a lesson plan that will contain a lecture, readings, a discussion or written assignment, and 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: Each assignment is 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, and good writing skills. Check below for due dates.

Written Assignments: These assignments are worth 20 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 due at the end of Week Two

Final Term paper: Each student will be required to complete a species-specific research paper/proposal on an approved, conservation-related subject (see “research paper/proposal” project description on Canvas). The student will seek approval (in writing: 1 page description of proposed topic) of the species and subject area at the end of Week One, submit an outline of the project by the end of Week Two (w/ references), and turn-in the completed project at the end of Week Four. This project is worth 100 points.

SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Week One

Class objectives, introduction to primates, and conservation biology

Primate behavior and ecology

Rarity in primates

Week One Quiz, Assignments, and Project Proposal due by Friday, 5PM, June 29

Week Two

Habitat disturbance

Disease, habituation, and the harvest of non-timber forest products (NTFP).

Essay Exam and Project Outline– Due by 5PM, July 6

Week Three

Ethnoprimateology

Week Seven Quiz and Assignments due by Friday, 5PM, July 13

Week Four

Conservation tactics and strategies

Grant Proposal-due by Friday, 5PM, July 20

GRADING POLICY

Points	Activity
40	Two Quizzes (20 points each)
60	Two Discussions (10 points each) and Two written assignments (20 points each)
50	Midterm Essays
100	Final Term Paper
250	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/>