

ANTH 472/572 Primate Conservation Biology

Fall 2016 Syllabus
TuTh 3:00-4:20 pm
330 Condon Hall

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Course content. The major goal of conservation biology is to preserve biodiversity and biological processes by preventing population extinction. It is a multidisciplinary field that helps develop, inform, guide, implement, and evaluate conservation action. In this course, we will examine concepts within conservation biology with a focus on the Order Primates as many primate species are threatened with local and global extinction from a variety of anthropogenic factors. An introduction to the discipline of conservation biology will be followed by a review of primate diversity. We will then discuss why many wild primates are endangered and evaluate a variety of conservation strategies within the context of socioeconomic and cultural drivers of primate threats. *This is a seminar and readings-based course, which means you are expected to come to class prepared to discuss and debate information in your assigned readings.*

Learning Objectives. You will learn the various complexities and challenges that people face when attempting primate conservation. By the end of the term, you will be able to explain the threats that primates face, why they face them, the wide variety of strategies employed to mitigate them, and the complex trade offs that surround conservation success and failure.

Course Format. This course mixes a variety of learning formats, including lecture, readings, discussion, debate, team exercises, oral presentation, and exams. Students who fully participate in all of these formats are the ones most likely to successfully complete the learning objectives.

Canvas. A Canvas site will be maintained for this class, which will be your main source for course information, documents, and announcements. Make sure that you regularly check your Canvas-linked e-mail account.

Readings. This is a reading intensive course with 2-3 readings assigned per class period. *Readings must be completed before class to ensure participation in class discussion.* Assigned readings are from the primary literature and will be posted to Canvas. There is no textbook.

Expectations and Grading. Regular class attendance and participation are expected. In addition, your grade will be determined by a quiz, midterm exam, team exercises, a case study assignment/presentation, and a final exam.

Primate Diversity Quiz	5%	Oct. 6th
Midterm Exam	20%	Oct. 27th
In class team exercises (2)	10% (5% each)	Oct. 13th, Oct. 20th
Case Study Assignment	25%	See Below
Final Exam	20%	Dec. 6th, 12:30 pm
Attendance and Participation	20%	All Class Periods

Grades will be assigned as follows: A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F < 60% (with minus and plus grades assigned at appropriate cutoffs).

The grading system used in this course is as follows:

A – Outstanding performance relative to that required to meet course requirements; demonstrates a mastery of course content at the highest level.

B – Performance that is significantly above that required to meet course requirements; demonstrates a mastery of course content at a high level.

C – Performance that meets the course requirements in every respect; demonstrates an adequate understanding of course content.

D – Performance that is at the minimal level necessary to pass the course but does not fully meet the course requirements; demonstrates a marginal understanding of course content.

F – Performance in the course, for whatever reason, is unacceptable and does not meet the course requirements; demonstrates an inadequate understanding of the course content.

Primate Diversity Quiz. At the beginning of the term you will take a quiz on basic primate diversity to make sure you are prepared for the remainder of the class. Most of this material should be review from ANTH 171 and/or ANTH 270.

Exams. You will take 2 exams – a midterm and final. The midterm covers weeks 1-5. The final is non-cumulative and covers weeks 6-10, including student presentation of case studies.

In Class Team Exercises. You will work through, discuss, and complete two written group exercises in class. These must be completed in class and *cannot* be administered before or after the scheduled dates. Team exercises are designed to assess student preparation and develop student ability to work together to tackle material in conservation biology.

Case Study and Presentation. This is a series of assignments collectively worth 25% of your total grade. You will work in pairs to research a primate taxon or habitat of high priority and develop a conservation program targeted to improve conservation status. You will be required to integrate information across a variety of disciplines to achieve this goal. This case study will culminate in an action plan that you present to the class during weeks 8-10. Each presentation will involve a 15-20 minute oral presentation using powerpoint followed by 15-20 minutes of discussion. Presenting is an important part of being a scientist, especially a conservation biologist. You must be able to coherently and succinctly convey your ideas to a wider audience. Powerpoint slides must be handed in after the presentations. Further information will be provided about this assignment on Canvas.

Topic submission and approval:	Due by Oct 13 th or earlier by email
Threats Assignment:	Due by Oct 25 th or earlier (5%)
Stakeholders Assignment:	Due by Nov 10 th or earlier (5%)
Conservation Action Plan presentation:	See presentation schedule (15%)

Class participation. This is a seminar class. Class participation and attendance are thus important. Attend class, prepare for each class by doing the assigned readings, and participate in discussion to receive full credit. Many topics we discuss are controversial with a variety of opinions and no “right” answer. All students are expected to adhere to the highest standard of mutual respect in order to foster a diverse and inclusive environment.

Makeup and Late Policy. Make up exams and assignments are only given under extraordinary circumstances with documentation (e.g., doctor's note). NO EXCEPTIONS. *Late assignments will be lowered one full letter grade for each day late.*

Academic Fraud. A student who plagiarizes or cheats on any assignment in the course faces penalties that may include an F on the assignment or an F in the course. Academic fraud will also be reported to the Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Services who enforces the appropriate consequences.

Accommodations. Accommodations will be provided for students with documented disabilities. Please make arrangements to meet with with Dr. Ting to discuss these accommodations.

Course outline – Please use the following as a *rough* guide to the term. There is some flexibility to this schedule but you will be informed of any changes as the term progresses.

Week	Date	Topic
1	9/27 9/29	Introduction; Defining Conservation Conservation Values and Ethics
2	10/4 10/6	Primate Diversity Genetics and Small Population Biology (Primate Quiz)
3	10/11 10/13	Threats I: Habitat Alteration In Class Exercise I
4	10/18 10/20	Threats II: Hunting and Trafficking In Class exercise II
5	10/25 10/27	Threats III: Infectious Disease Midterm (covers week 1-5)
6	11/1 11/3	Conservation Planning Strategies I: Protected Areas
7	11/8 11/10	Strategies II: Community Based Conservation Strategies III: Captive breeding and management
8	11/15 11/17	Case study presentations Case study presentations
9	11/22 11/24	Case study presentations No Class – Thanksgiving break
10	11/29 12/1	Case study presentations Case study presentations

12:30 pm Tuesday, December 6th, FINAL EXAM (covers week 6-10)