

ANT 4930-003

PRIMATE LIFE HISTORY

Fall 2008

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| <u>Time:</u> | Th, 7:00 – 9:50 pm | <u>Instructor:</u> | Dr. Robert McCarthy |
| <u>Place:</u> | SO 190 | | Office: SO 173 |
| <u>Format:</u> | Lecture and discussion | | Phone: 561-297-1355 |
| | | | E-mail: rmccar10@fau.edu |
| | | | Office hours: TTh 12-2 pm, and by appt. |

Course objectives:

This course will introduce students to primate behavioral ecology, growth, development, and life history, with a special emphasis on using a comparative approach to illuminate human lifeways. In addition, we will attempt to trace the evolution of human life history, growth and development through an understanding of its biological basis in non-human primates, and a careful study of the human fossil record. The course will be run as a combination of lecture and discussion, and students are expected to read the textbooks and supplementary materials and to come to class prepared with questions and comments.

Textbook and readings:

Strier, K.B. (2007). *Primate Behavioral Ecology*, 3rd ed. Allyn & Bacon, NY.

Patterson, J.D. (2001). *Primate Behavior: An Exercise Workbook*, 2nd ed. Waveland Press, IL.

In addition to reading the textbooks, occasionally there will be supplemental readings (SR) and handouts which, along with weekly announcements and grades, will be posted regularly on Blackboard.

Grading:

Your grade in this course will be based on your scores on three exams (15% each) and a series of activities to be completed at a local zoo (55%). To complete these activities, students will need to spend 10 – 20 hours during the semester at either the Palm Beach Zoo (\$60 membership) or the Miami Metrozoo (\$49 membership). Further details will be made available during the course of the semester. Letter grades for the course will be assigned according to standard FAU policy; all grades (A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, F) are available.

Academic Integrity, Students with Disabilities:

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students will be expected to contribute positively to the general learning atmosphere in class; therefore, disruptions of lectures and discussions will result in appropriate disciplinary action. PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONES PRIOR TO CLASS.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who, due to a disability, require special accommodations to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) located in SU 133, (561)297-3880, and follow all OSD procedures.

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| <p><u>Note:</u> This syllabus is subject to change at any time. Updates will be posted on Blackboard.</p> |
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CLASS SCHEDULE

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Lecture</u> | <u>Reading</u> | <u>Due</u> |
|-------------|--|------------------|---------------------|
| 8/28 | Introduction to the course | | |
| 9/4 | Primate socioecology | Strier 1, P1 – 3 | |
| 9/11 | Primate diversity | Strier 2, P4 | Zoo trip |
| 9/18 | Primate evolution | Strier 3, P5 | |
| 9/25 | Growth and reproduction TEST #1 (covers 8/28 – 9/18) | SR | Exercise 1 |
| 10/2 | Evolution and social behavior | Strier 4 | Exercise 2 |
| 10/9 | Sex | Strier 5 | Exercise 3 |
| 10/16 | Food and foraging | Strier 6 | Exercise 4 |
| 10/23 | How to be a primate female / male | Strier 7, 8 | Exercise 5 |
| 10/30 | How to be a primatologist | | Exercise 6 |
| 11/6 | Statistics in primatology TEST #2 | Review P4 | Exercise 7 |
| 11/13 | Human hunter-gatherers | SR | Exercise 8 |
| 11/20 | Human life history | SR | Exercise 9 |
| 11/27 | NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING | | |
| 12/4 | Hominin life history | SR | Exercise 12 |
| 12/11 | TEST #3 | | |
| 12/13 | | | Final Report |