

Introduction to Primatology (Lecture course)
Psychology 2850 A
Summer 2011
(tentative course outline)

Lecturer: Jean-Baptiste Leca

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Office: D851 (University Hall)

Office Hours: Thursday from 1:00 – 3:00 pm or by appointment

Class Time: Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 – 11:50 am

Classroom: L1060

General content and objectives:

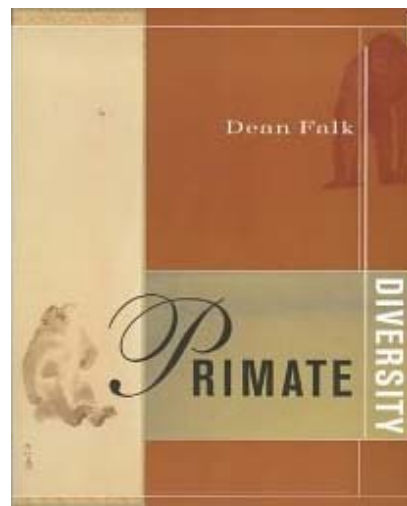
What are the characteristic features of primates? What is their evolutionary history? How many living species of primates are there today? How are they classified? Where do they live? What do they eat? How do they move? How do they communicate? How do they socialize? How do they mate? What are the major threats they face? How do non-human and human primates compare in terms of brain evolution and cognitive abilities? How do primatologists address all these questions?

In this introductory course, we will go through all the primate taxa (i.e. prosimians, New World monkeys, Old World Monkeys, and apes) to illustrate the great variety in the anatomy, physiology, behaviour, and ecology within the Primate Order. By focusing on primates – one of the most diverse groups of mammals – we will address the following topics: evolutionary history, taxonomic classification, diet, predation, communication, social systems, kin selection, reproductive strategies, cognition, and conservation.

Required textbook:

For each lecture, you are required to read at least one chapter of a textbook that encapsulates many fundamental aspects of primate evolution, while simultaneously engaging the reader. Because most of the lecturer contents are drawn from this book, it is a strongly recommended purchase. This book is available at the campus bookstore. The full citation of the book is:

Dean Falk (2000). *Primate Diversity*.
W. W. Norton & Company.
ISBN: 0-393-97428-6



Evaluation:

There will be two written-format in-class exams:

Mid-term exam – 40% (scheduled on June 1st). This test will include the lecture materials and the textbook chapters covered during the first seven sessions (May 9th - May 30).

Cumulative final exam – 60 % (scheduled on June 27th). This exam will include the entire textbook and all lecture materials covered during the term.

Lecture materials will include: 1) lectures (based on the textbook and a series of take-home message slides that I will post on Moodle before each class), 2) videos, and 3) in-class discussions.

The format of the exams will be multiple choice, matching, and/or short answer.

Bonus – Participation in research projects in the Department of Psychology:

After your final grade has been calculated, you can have an additional 2% added onto your final grade if you have participated in the research studies in the Department of Psychology. This will give you an opportunity to experience how psychological research is conducted. You will have an account set up on <http://psychleth.sona-systems.com>. If you have any questions with the system please email Leanne at wehlage@uleth.ca for help. You will receive your username and password to get into the system (NOTE: it is not your email address and password).

Grading:

The following ranges will be employed in assigning grades in this course:

A+: >89.5	C+: 66.5 – 69.4
A: 84.5 – 89.4	C: 63.5 – 66.4
A-: 79.5 – 84.4	C-: 59.5 – 63.4
B+: 76.5 – 79.4	D+: 56.5 – 59.4
B: 73.5 – 76.4	D: 50 – 56.4
B-: 69.5 – 73.4	F: <49.9

In accordance with the University of Lethbridge Calendar,

A = Excellent

B = Good

C = Satisfactory

D = Poor

F = Fail

Lecture organization:

Classroom regulations:

- (1) Please arrive to class on time. If you are late, sit at the back to minimize disruption. The instructor will be careful not to run overtime so please remain seated until the end of class.
- (2) If you are disrespectful to other members of the class, you will be asked to leave.
- (3) Please turn off your cell phones while in class (this falls under being disrespectful).
- (4) If you want to use a laptop in class please sit along the back row or at the sides of the lecture theatre to minimize distractions.
- (5) Relevant interruptions and class participation are welcomed but please raise your hand in order to ask questions or to make comments. Questions that are emailed may also be discussed in class.

Exam regulations:

- (1) Exams will not be returned to the student but can be reviewed during office hours or by appointment. Marks will be posted on Moodle not less than one week after exams are taken. An answer key for the exam will also be posted on Blackboard. After reviewing the key and your notes, if you feel that you were marked unfairly or that marks were missed on your exam, please prepare a short statement explaining the problem. The question will then be re-graded and marks adjusted (up or down as is warranted) at the instructor's discretion.

- (2) No accommodation will be made for poor performance on exams. Additional work will not be assigned for those who wish to improve their grades.

- (3) Students can write missed exams only on two conditions:

- a) They must notify the Psychology main office (403-329-2235) or the instructor (jeanbaptiste.leca@uleth.ca) **BEFORE** the exam
- b) They must provide an appropriate documentation (i.e. a medical certificate). Non-medical reasons for missed exams (e.g. a death in the family) must also be supported with appropriate documentation.

These two conditions must be met before a make-up test can be scheduled. If not, missed exams automatically receive a score of zero.

Academic accommodations:

It is the students' responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodations and have not registered with the Disabilities Resource Centre, please contact them at 403-329-2766. Students who have not registered with the Disabilities Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. You are also required to discuss your need with your instructor no more than 14 days after the start of the course.

Tentative lecture schedule:

(This schedule may be subject to some change depending how quickly material is covered)

May 9 – Overview of the course, Readings: Introduction and chapter 1 (The basics of primate evolution), video

May 11 – Readings: chapter 2 (Methods and theory for studying living primates), video

May 16 – Readings: chapter 3 (Galagos, lorises, and tarsiers), video

May 18 – Readings: chapter 4 (Lemurs), video

May 23 – Readings: chapter 5 (Monkeys of the New World: the Callitrichines), video

May 25 – Readings: chapter 6 (Other neotropical monkeys: Cebidae and Atelidae), video

May 30 – Readings: chapter 7 (Old World Monkeys: the leaf-eating colobines), video

June 1 – Mid-term exam, video

June 6 – Readings: chapter 8 (Old World cheek-pouched monkeys: the shift to terrestriality), video

June 8 – Readings: chapter 9 (Macaques and savanna baboons: sexual politics and human evolution), video

June 13 – Readings: chapter 10 (Gibbons, the lesser apes) and chapter 11 (Orangutans: the shy ape), video

June 15 – Readings: chapter 12 (Gorillas, the largest primates of all), video

June 20 – Readings: chapter 13 (Our cousins: the chimpanzees), video

June 22 – Readings: chapter 14 (The earliest hominids), video

June 27 – Cumulative final exam