

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
University of Lethbridge
PSYCHOLOGY 2850NA
Primate Behaviour
Spring 2010

Class Time: Thursdays 6:00-8:50 pm

Instructor: Dr. Julie Teichroeb

Phone: 403-329-2436

Office Hours: Thursdays 4:00-5:30 pm or by appointment

Class Location: TH201

Email: julie.teichroeb@uleth.ca

Office: C885

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will cover the fundamental influences on primate behaviour, including how evolutionary history, physiology, ecology and male and female reproductive strategies may affect social dynamics (e.g. dominance, aggression, kinship, sexual behaviour, cognition and communication).

REQUIRED TEXT: *Primate Behavioral Ecology* by Karen Strier, 3rd Edition, 2006

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Term Test One – 30%: Feb. 4th - This test will be multiple choice and short answer format and will cover all preceding lecture materials and chapters 1-3 of the text book.

Term Test Two – 30%: Mar. 11th - This test will be multiple choice and short answer format (same as Term Test One) and will cover lecture materials since Term Test One and chapters 4-8 of the text book.

Cumulative Final Exam – 40%: Registrar scheduled - This test will cover the entire text book and all lecture materials during the term. It will also be multiple choice and short answer format.

Please note that ALL lecture materials will be covered in exams and this includes videos, lectures, discussions, and guest lectures. Students will need to attend class to do well in the course. Lecture notes will be posted on Blackboard and can be printed before class to assist in note-taking.

The text book material is related and complementary to lecture material. However, lectures will not be tightly tied to the text book and both need to be mastered to do well on exams. Students should read the text and pay close attention to areas where it overlaps with the lectures.

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 403-329-2281. 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.

Missed Exams – Missed tests automatically receive a score of zero. In the event of an emergency or illness, the Psychology main office (403-329-2235) or the instructor (jateichr@ucalgary.ca) **MUST** be notified **BEFORE** the exam, and documentation (i.e. a doctor's note) **MUST** be provided before a make-up test will be scheduled.

Returned Exams – Exams will not be returned to the student but can be reviewed during office hours or by appointment. Marks will be posted on Blackboard 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, you are asked to 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.

No accommodation will be made for poor performance on exams. For instance, additional items cannot be submitted in lieu of exams and grades will not be curved. Be sure that you are well-prepared for exams so that you perform well when you have the opportunity.

Experimental Research Participation:

Students have the opportunity to earn extra credit and gain additional learning opportunities by participating in ongoing psychological research at the University of Lethbridge. Notices of such opportunities will be made during the semester through postings in the "Announcements" section of Blackboard. Projects vary but they usually require one hour or less of your time. Since these projects allow you to learn something about the discipline of psychology beyond what you would in the normal classroom environment, an extra credit of 1-2% for each study in which you participate will be added to your total grade to a MAXIMUM extra credit of 5%. Please note that there is no guarantee that all students will be able to achieve the maximum extra credit. These extra credits are added only after all grade cutoffs have been established such that students who choose not to participate are not disadvantaged.

Classroom Regulations:

- 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 stay seated until the end of class.
- To be fair to students sitting near you, do not converse with others during lectures. Lecture material will be covered on exams.
- 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.
- Use of laptops in class is permitted but has been found to be distracting to students sitting nearby. **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.
- Please turn your cell phone off while in class.
- Exam security is taken very seriously. Since exams will be taken in class, where students sit close together, please be aware that wandering eyes could lead to suspicion. Keep your eyes on your exam or to the front of the room. Conversely, cover your own exam to stop

others from being tempted to look at it. Please remain seated during exams until you can leave the row you are sitting in without disturbing others.

Grade Breakdown:

A+	100-89.9%	B	77.8-74.9%	C-	62.8-58.9%
A	89.8-84.9%	B-	74.8-70.9%	D+	58.8-54.9%
A-	84.8-79.9%	C+	70.8-66.9%	D	54.8-49.9%
B+	79.8-77.9%	C	66.8-62.9%	F	49.8% and less

LECTURE SCHEDULE:

May be subject to some change depending how quickly material is covered.

Jan. 7, 10 – Overview of the course, Introduction to primate studies, Primate evolutionary trends, The primate pattern

Jan. 14, 10 – Theories for the origins of the primates, Primate Survey – Prosimians & New World monkeys

Jan. 21, 10 – Primate Survey – Old World monkeys & apes, Video – *Lemurs with John Cleese*

Jan. 28, 10 – Group living and dispersal patterns, Social and mating systems, Prep for exam

Feb. 4, 10 – **Term Test One**, Video – *Monkey Island – Cayo Santiago Rhesus Macaques*

Feb. 11, 10 – Natural selection, kin selection and reciprocal altruism, Sexual selection and parental investment,

Feb. 25, 10 – Limiting resources, Male reproductive strategies, Video – *Gelada Baboons – The Battles of Braveheart*

Mar. 4, 10 – Female strategies, food competition, socio-ecology, Video – *The New Chimpanzees*,

Mar. 11, 10 – **Term Test Two**, Video – *Gremlins: Faces in the Forest*

Mar. 18, 10 – The primate life cycle, Hormones and behaviour

Mar. 25, 10 – Communication and cognition, Video – *Disenchanted Forest*

Apr. 1, 10 - Primate community ecology, Video – *The Three Monkeys*

Apr. 8, 10 - Primate Conservation, Conservation Methods, Video – *Milking the Rhino*

Final exam scheduled by the Registrar (likely Apr. 22, 10, 6:00 – 8:00 pm).