

Primate Behavioral Ecology

ANTH 2142.001 – Fall 2017

Time: TR 12:30 – 1:45pm

Location: Fretwell 419



Instructor: Dr. Lydia E. O. Light

Office: Hickory 45B

Email: llight1@uncc.edu

Office Hours: MTWR 9:30-10:30 am

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT MY OFFICE HOURS: My office is located on the 4th floor of Hickory building while Barnard is under renovation. Unfortunately, this level is only accessible by stairs. If you have a mobility issue, or develop a medical condition that affects your mobility, please indicate this when requesting an appointment, and I will determine an alternate location for our meeting.

If you have questions or concerns about this, please contact me directly.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine nonhuman primate diversity, including evolution, ecology, social behavior, reproductive strategies and conservation of prosimians, monkeys, and apes.

Specific Outcomes: Over the course of the semester, you will have the opportunity to:

- (1) Identify the nonhuman primates' evolutionary and ecological place in nature and understand how biological anthropologists collect and use data when working with nonhuman primates.
- (2) Understand and articulate the ways biological anthropologists investigate nonhuman primate behavior and ecology.
- (3) Demonstrate an awareness of the cumulative and collaborative nature of primatology and work effectively towards a shared scientific goal.
- (4) Recognize the serious threats against the continued survival of nonhuman primates throughout the world.



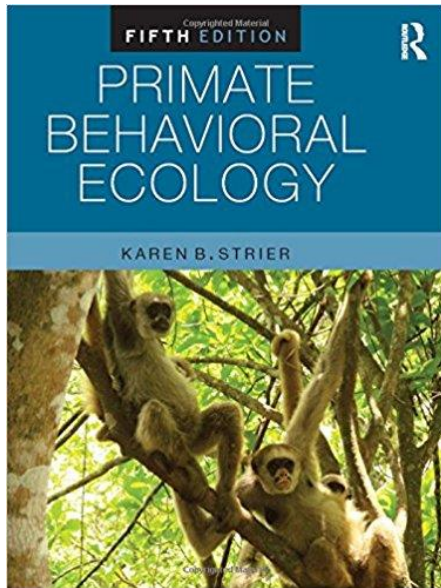
TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

My approach to teaching focuses on the power of experiential knowledge. Therefore, I include as many opportunities for my students to emotionally engage with the material presented. While certain aspects of the course are most effectively taught through traditional lectures, I use a variety of active learning techniques, primarily focused on lab time, but occasionally done during

class time. I also feel that students in my courses should be gaining skills that apply to other courses and professionalism in general.

***This course affirms people of all gender expressions and gender identities. If you prefer to be called a different name than what is indicated on the class roster, please let me know. Feel free to correct me on your preferred gender pronoun. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

REQUIRED MATERIALS



TEXTBOOK: The majority of the readings are found in the primary text. The text can be purchased or rented at the UNCC bookstore, off-campus bookstores, and online at www.amazon.com (use smile.amazon.com to contribute a portion of your purchase to a charity of your choice).

Primate Behavioral Ecology 5th Edition
By Karen B. Strier

CLASSROOM RESPONSE SYSTEM: You will need access to the *Poll Everywhere* app for daily quizzes and exams. *Poll Everywhere* can be used with any mobile-enabled device (laptops, smartphones, or tablets). Please email me if you do not have access to a suitable device. Students must create a *Poll Everywhere* account and register it through the link provided on Canvas.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

All students are expected to **take responsibility for their learning** in this course. This includes attending lectures, completing assigned readings, participating in small group and class discussions, turning in all assignments on time and keeping up to date on Canvas. Lectures **will NOT be posted** on Canvas. There will be **NO MAKE-UP** opportunities for in-class activities except in the case of **documented, university approved** excuses. Therefore, class attendance is crucial for successful completion of the course. All students are encouraged to visit me during my office hours for assistance. All changes in course content and schedule will be announced as far in advance as is feasible.

READING: Frequent readings will be required for this course. To maximize your chances for succeeding in this course, you should complete the assigned reading **BEFORE** we cover the material in class. Additionally, you should critically engage with the material as you read it.

EXAMS: Three exams will be given during the semester consisting of multiple-choice, true/false, matching, and short answer questions. The top two exam scores will count towards your final grade. The exams will cover information included in **readings, lectures, videos, and class discussions**. The exams will not be cumulative; however, key principles from earlier units may be relevant to later material and may be included on the later exams. There will be **NO MAKE-**

UP EXAMS except in the case of **documented, university approved** excuses. If you do have a valid excuse, I require that you contact me **within 24 hours** from the scheduled time of the exam (or 24 hours from when you are bodily able to contact me) to request a make-up exam.

VIDEOS: Throughout the semester, I will be showing five videos that help clarify or expand on topics covered in class. You will be asked to complete video response papers worth 20 points each to demonstrate your understanding of the material and to give you an opportunity to critically engage with the material. Video response papers are due **prior to the start of the next class** and **MUST** be submitted via Canvas as Microsoft Word documents.

SMALL PROJECTS: You will have two small projects due during the semester. Each project will be worth 25 points and details for each will be provided on Canvas. The projects are designed to allow students to creatively engage with the course material.

QUIZZES: Reading quizzes will be given during the **first five minutes** of class on the day readings are due and will assess your understanding of those readings. As these quizzes are designed to provide immediate feedback, they will be taken as a class and will not be available after the first five minutes, so be sure to **arrive on time** for lectures. The highest 20 quiz scores throughout the semester will comprise 100 points (20%) towards your final grade.

SHORT ACTIVITIES: You will have the opportunity to complete ten short activities designed to help students assess their progress and engage with course material. These activities will be graded. Each exercise will be worth 5 points and 10 exercises will be completed over the semester. Activities may be either individual or group activities, completed in class or outside of class.

GRADING

Assessment	Point Value	Approximate percent of final grade
Exams	200 points	40%
Video Response Papers	100 points	20%
Small Projects	50 points	10%
Quizzes	100 points	20%
Short Activities	50 points	10%
Total	500 points	100%

Final course grades will be assigned as follows:

A	90-100%	450 points and above
B	80-89%	400-449 points
C	70-79%	350-399 points
D	60-69%	300-349 points
F	<60%	299 and below

EXTRA CREDIT: Extra credit assignments will be available at the end of each unit. There will be **NO individual extra credit assignments given at the students' request.**

GRADE DISPUTE POLICIES

If you feel I have made a grading or recording error with your course grades, you **MUST** contact me to discuss the issue within **2 weeks** of when the grade is posted on Canvas or by the last day of class if during the final two weeks of the semester. Any disputes brought to my attention after that point will not be addressed as you are responsible for monitoring your grades.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

This syllabus contains the policies and expectations I have established for Primate Behavioral Ecology. Please read the entire syllabus carefully before continuing in this course. These policies and expectations are intended to create a productive learning atmosphere for all students. Unless you are prepared to abide by these policies and expectations, you risk losing the opportunity to participate further in the course.

My classroom is a place where open-minded, independent thinking is encouraged. To facilitate this environment, all students are expected to act with respect and maturity towards their fellow students, the instructor, and any visiting speakers. I hold the following expectations for my students:

- 1) All cell phones (smart or dumb) and other personal electronics must be **put aside after the reading quiz**. If you are using a laptop, I ask that you use it **only for taking notes or completing in-class activities**. If you have extenuating circumstances, please contact me.
- 2) To reduce in-class distractions, please **remain seated during class**. If you know you need to leave prior to the end of class, please speak to me before class begins.
- 3) Please save your personal discussions for after class and avoid interrupting classmates.
- 4) Arrive **on-time** for class and refrain from packing up your belongings before the lecture is finished. While it is reasonable to be late occasionally, habitual tardiness is not acceptable. If you have extenuating circumstances, please contact me.
- 5) Some of the material covered in class may be perceived as controversial. Please remain respectful of your classmates (and instructor) during discussions of such nature. Each of us may have strongly differing opinions on the various topics of class discussions. The orderly questioning of the ideas of others, including mine, is similarly welcome. However, I will exercise my responsibility to manage the discussions so that ideas and argument can proceed in an orderly fashion. You should expect that if your conduct during class discussions seriously disrupts the atmosphere of mutual respect I expect in this class, you will not be permitted to participate further and may subsequently lose opportunities for course credit.

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY

While I recognize that adjusting to college academics can be a challenging time, I do not tolerate any form of academic dishonesty in my class. I will not tolerate any attempts to manipulate grading opportunities or misappropriate credit for work done and will penalize any student violating the university policies on scholastic dishonesty. I reserve the right to ask students to produce identification at examinations and may require students to demonstrate that graded assignments completed outside of class are their own work. If work is found to be anything other than the original work of the student, I reserve the right to assign no credit for a portion of an assignment or the entire assignment. Highly egregious cases will be sent to the Dean of Students

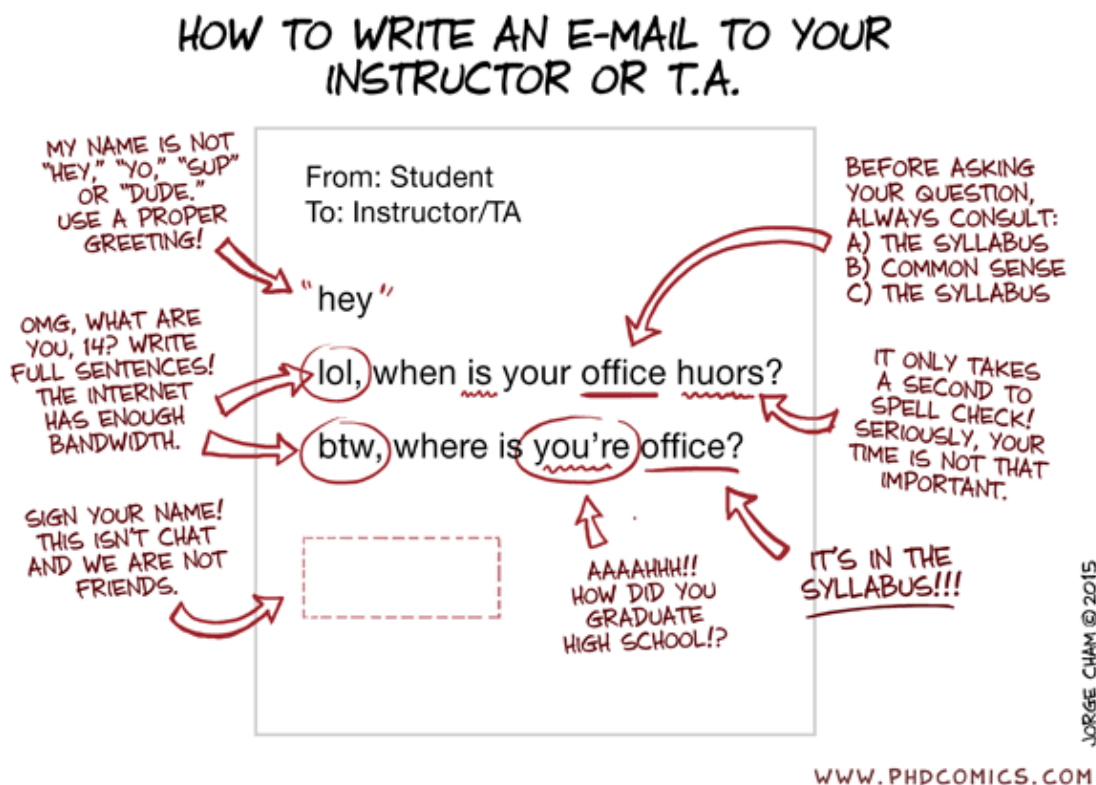
Office immediately. All students are required to read and abide by the Code of Student Academic Integrity. Violations of the Code of Student Academic Integrity, including plagiarism, will result in disciplinary action as provided in the Code. Definitions and examples of plagiarism are set forth in the Code. The Code is available from the Dean of Students Office or [online](#).

ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE & ACCOMMODATIONS

I encourage all of my students to seek out additional assistance if they are concerned about their academic performance (and even if they are not). I am always available to meet with students either during my office hours or by appointment. In addition, the university provides a number of services designed to help students excel academically. Students in this course seeking accommodations to disabilities must first consult with the Office of Disability Services and follow the instructions of that office for obtaining accommodations.

COMMUNICATION POLICY

I try to be available to students as much as possible. In addition to being available during office hours, feel free to email me at light1@uncc.edu with questions. I will respond to emails within 24 hours, but usually much sooner. However, if there is no question in the email that needs to be answered or the question is explicitly stated here in the syllabus, I will not respond to the email. Also, if the email is not written in a professional manner, I will request ONCE that you follow proper formatting, after which I will stop communicating with you via email.



TITLE IX REPORTING POLICY

UNC Charlotte is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these incidents, know that you are not alone. UNC Charlotte has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

Please be aware that many UNC Charlotte employees, including all faculty members, are considered [Responsible Employees](#) who are required to relay any information or reports of sexual misconduct they receive to the Title IX Coordinator. **This means that if you tell me about a situation involving sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, I must report the information to the Title IX Coordinator.** Although I have to report the situation, you will still have options about how your case will be handled, including whether or not you wish to pursue a formal complaint. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources you need.

If you wish to speak to someone confidentially, you can contact any of the following on-campus resources, who are not required to report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator: (1) University Counseling Center (counselingcenter.uncc.edu, 7-0311); (2) Student Health Center (studenthealth.uncc.edu, 7-7400); or (3) Center for Wellness Promotion (wellness.uncc.edu, 7-7407). Additional information about your options is also available at titleix.uncc.edu under the “Students” tab.

REVISIONS POLICY

The standards and requirements set forth in this syllabus may be modified at any time by the course instructor. Notice of such changes will be by announcement in class or by changes to this syllabus posted on the course in Canvas.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

	Week	Date	Class Topic	Assignment
UNIT ONE	1	Aug 22	Introduction	
		Aug 24	Primate Studies part 1	Strier pg. 1-25
	2	Aug 29	Primate Studies part 2	Strier pg. 25-35
		Sept 1	<i>Video</i>	
	3	Sept 5	Traits, Trends, and Taxonomy part 1	Strier pg.37-62 VRP #1 Due
		Sept 7	Traits, Trends, and Taxonomy part 2	Strier pg. 62-72
	4	Sept 12	Primates Past to Present part 1	Strier pg. 73-87
		Sept 14	Primates Past to Present part 2	Strier pg. 87-99
		Sept 19	Evolution and Social Behavior part 1	Strier pg. 101-123
	5	Sept 21	Evolution and Social Behavior part 2	Strier pg. 123-141 Small Project #1 Due
6	Sept 26	EXAM 1		
UNIT TWO	6	Sept 28	Evolution and Sex part 1	Strier pg. 143-171
	7	Oct 3	Evolution and Sex part 2	Strier pg. 171-181
		Oct 5	<i>Video</i>	
		Oct 10	NO CLASS – Fall Recess	
	8	Oct 12	Food, Foraging, and Females	Strier pg. 183-214 VRP #2 Due
		Oct 17	Female Strategies part 1	Strier pg. 215-233
		Oct 19	Female Strategies part 2	Strier pg. 233-247
	10	Oct 24	Male Strategies part 1	Strier pg. 249-267
		Oct 26	Male Strategies part 2	Strier pg. 267-278
	11	Oct 31	<i>Video</i>	Small Project #2 Due
	Nov 2	EXAM 2	VRP #3 Due	
UNIT THREE	12	Nov 7	Developmental Stages part 1	Strier pg. 279-293
		Nov 9	Developmental Stages part 2	Strier pg. 293-309
	13	Nov 14	Communication and Cognition	Strier pg. 311-328
		Nov 16	<i>Video</i>	Strier pg. 328-345
	14	Nov 21	Community Ecology	Strier pg. 347-372 VRP #4 Due
		Nov 23	NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break	
	15	Nov 28	Conservation part 1	Strier pg. 373-383
		Nov 30	<i>Video</i>	
16	Dec 5	Conservation part 2	Strier pg. 383-397 VRP #5 Due	
FINAL EXAM: Thursday, December 14 11:00 am-1:30 pm				