

Field Biology of the Primates

ANTH 4140.001

Time: F 9:30 am – 12:15 pm

Location: Fretwell 419



Instructor: Dr. Lydia E. O. Light

Office: Hickory 45B

Email: llight1@uncc.edu

Office Hours: TR 11:00 am - 1:00 pm and by appointment

TA: Adam Johnson

Email: ajohn344@uncc.edu

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 AND OBJECTIVES:

Endangered lemurs live in a naturalistic habitat in Manatee County, Florida. Here, they travel through the forest, choosing what to eat, where to travel, and with whom to associate – much as they would in their native habitat of Madagascar. During this course, students will become part of the team who study this population, in an on-going multidisciplinary research project. You will learn:

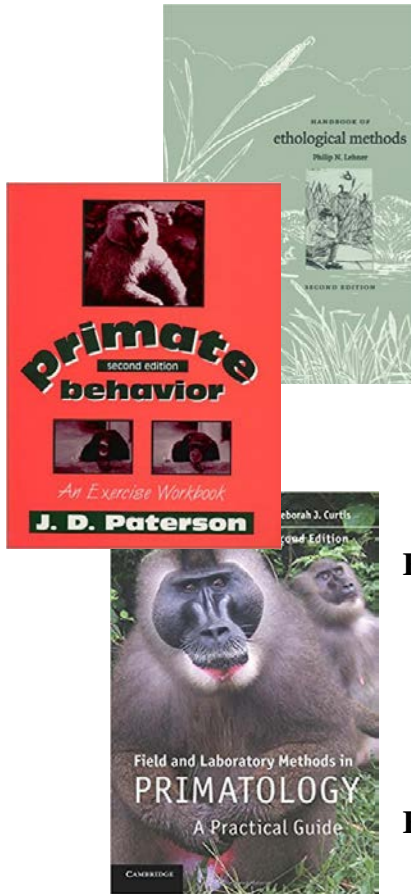
- 1) how to design and conduct a research project
- 2) write your own dictionary of lemur behavior
- 3) collect data on several kinds of social behavior
- 4) help document the lemurs' daily ranging patterns
- 5) record interactions between different taxa.
- 6) daily husbandry chores
- 7) gain an understanding of the differences between a research/breeding site and a sanctuary



***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:

TEXTS:



Handbook of Ethological Methods

2nd Edition

P. Lehnert

ISBN13: 978-0521637503

Primate Behavior: An Exercise Workbook (with CD)

2nd Edition

J. D. Paterson and Donald Vandenberg

ISBN13: 978-1577661658

(Recommended) Field and Laboratory Methods in Primatology

2nd Edition

Edited by Joanna M. Stechell and Deborah J. Curtis

ISBN13: 978-0521142137

FOLDERS:

Students need to purchase one 1” 3-ring binder. I will provide students with all data sheets and assignment descriptions as well as a detailed schedule for the trip and any necessary administrative information. At the end of the Spring Break trip, students will turn in their folders for grading.

FIELD EQUIPMENT:

Students are required to wear suitable clothing when in the field. I will also provide students with a list of necessary field equipment that will need to be purchased, borrowed, or found.

HEALTH AND SAFETY: All students must submit a negative TB test before departing. All students must also fill out paperwork related to health and safety. All paperwork will be distributed on the first day of class.

PAYMENT: There is an additional cost for lodging and field site access plus the cost of food. Students choosing to stay in bunks in the research house will need to pay **\$610** while those wishing to stay in the large tents provided by LCF will need to pay **\$520**. This can be paid to the department by check or cash. While we can accept payment in installments (must be paid in full before departing), we cannot issue returns, so please be certain you can pay the entire fee before the add/drop date (**January 16, 2018**). I strongly encourage you all to stay in the research house as housing decisions cannot be changed once we pay and spending the night in a tent in the rain is the last thing you want to do after spending the day in the rain. Also, please note that the lodging costs provide much-needed funding for LCF for care of the animals and upkeep of the grounds – staying in the research house provides a bit more support to the facility than sleeping in the tents. Food costs will be determined once enrollment is final and we have met as a group to discuss food allergies and other pertinent information.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

All students are expected to **take responsibility for their learning** in this course. As this course will involve a week spent working with classmates off campus, it is of the utmost importance that students complete the work for which they are responsible and remain an equally contributing member of the course team. There are a number of assignments required for this course, but the majority will be completed during a concentrated period of time during Spring Break. For the rest of the assignments, all work needs to be turned in using Canvas.

PREPARATION ASSIGNMENTS: Students are required to complete two preparation assignments to familiarize themselves with primate research methods and background information on lemurs. The preparation assignments will comprise 20% of your final grade.

FIELDWORK ASSIGNMENTS: Students will receive specific assignments during the field school. These assignments will be completed either during the daily activities or in the evening after other activities have concluded and students have cleaned up all public spaces. These assignments are to be completed using the pages in the folder provided or by printing out additional work and inserting those printed pages in the folders. The fieldwork assignments will comprise 40% of your final grade.

PARTICIPATION: Each day during the field school, students will be expected to participate fully, be helpful both in the house and while working with staff. Participation during the field school will comprise 20% of your final grade.

FINAL PROJECT: For the final project, students will submit two documents; one reflexive piece related to their field experiences and one open essay letter. Details will be provided on Canvas at the completion of the field school. The final project will comprise 20% of your final grade.

GRADING:

Assessment	Approximate percent of final grade
Preparation Assignments	20%
Fieldwork Assignments	40%
Participation	20%
Final project	20%
Total	100%

Final course grades will be assigned as follows:

- A 90-100%
- B 80-89%
- C 70-79%
- D 60-69%
- F <60%

EXTRA CREDIT: There will be **NO** extra credit assignments for this course.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

This class is conducted primarily off-campus and under strenuous conditions. To facilitate a positive learning environment, all students are expected to act with respect and maturity towards their fellow students, the instructor, the LCF staff, and anyone else involved in the program.

I hold the following expectations for my students:

- 1) Be an equal contributor to the team regarding cleaning up after yourself, helping with meal prep or clean up, keeping public areas tidy, and assisting LCF staff when asked.
- 2) Treat your classmates with respect at all times. Living and traveling together as a group can get difficult – if you need a Space Break, please let me know. Otherwise, please remember that we all must work together for the entirety of the trip and therefore need to remain collegial.
- 3) Keep wifi usage to a minimum while at the LCF facility. We are going to be a large group compared to what the facility is used to working with and their server cannot handle the high amount of internet traffic we would likely create. Students will be allowed to check email and stay connected in similar ways but no streaming or downloading.
- 4) Always – ALWAYS – comply with the rules and regulations set by LCF when on site. If the LCF staff asks for us to modify our site use, I expect all students to comply immediately and without complaint. Be safe – when in the enclosures, you pose a risk to the lemurs. There are rules and guidelines that protect both humans and lemurs, but also use your common sense.

This syllabus contains the policies and expectations I have established for the Field Biology of the Primates course. 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.

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY

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. 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](#).

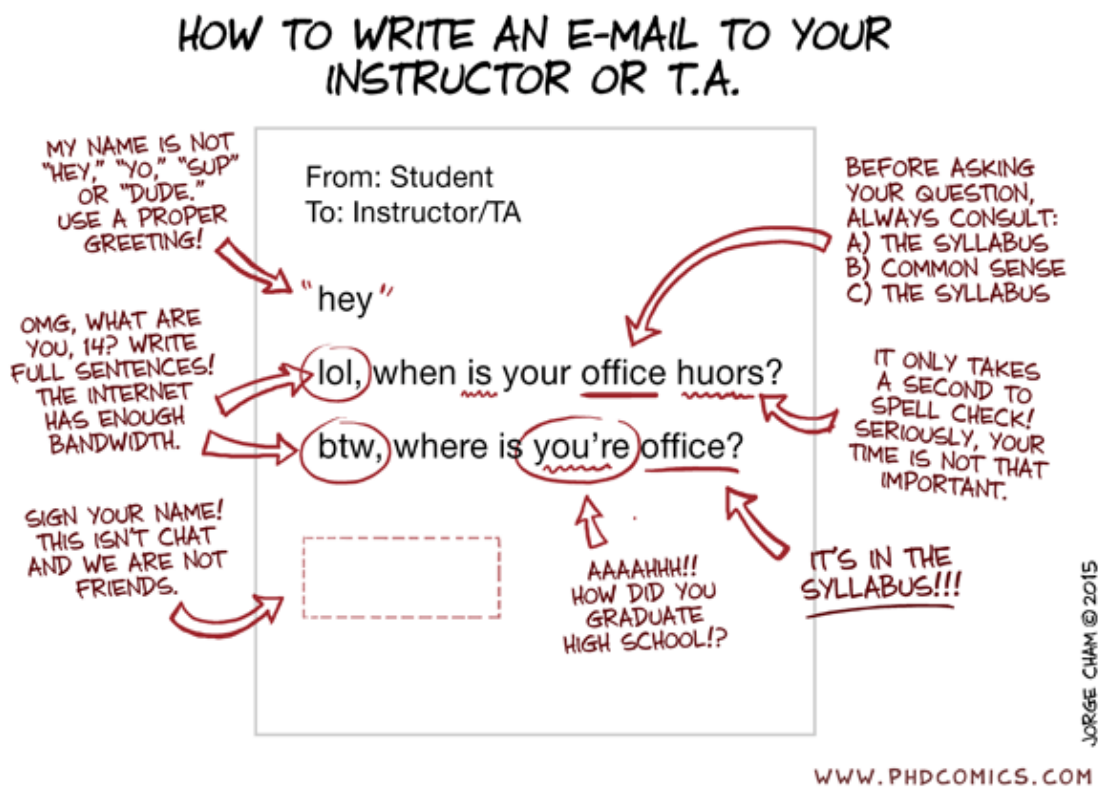
ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE & ACCOMMODATIONS

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 llight1@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.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Week	Date	Class Topic
1	Jan 12	Introduction
2	Jan 19	Liability and Health Paperwork Due!
3	Jan 26	
4	Feb 2	Visit from Dr. James Herrera – subject to scheduling
5	Feb 9	
6	Feb 16	Proof of Negative TB Test Due!
7	Feb 23	Preparation Assignments Due!
8	Mar 2	Deliver food money by noon

Spring Break Field School Schedule		
Date	Morning	Afternoon
Mar 4	Travel to Myakka City – leave at 6AM, arrive at ~6PM	
Mar 5	Welcome; Primate diets	Diary method
Mar 6	Focal animal sampling	Feeding/Canopy platform training
Mar 7	Center for Great Apes tour	Lemurs at night
Mar 8	Space and activity budget	Grooming
Mar 9	Give Back to LCF	Radio telemetry
Mar 10	Travel back to UNC Charlotte	

9	Mar 16	
10	Mar 23	
11	Mar 30	
12	Apr 6	
13	Apr 13	
14	Apr 20	
15	Apr 27	Final Assignment Due!