

Field Biology of the Primates

ANTH 4140

Time: T/Th 11:30-12:45 pm

Location: Denny 106



Instructor: Dr. Lydia E. O. Light

Office: Barnard 215

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Office Hours: by appointment

TA: Ethan Gullede

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Office Hours: by appointment



COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

Primatological research relies on the standardization of methodological approaches to maintain scientific integrity. To become a professional primatologist, you need to gain hands-on experience using a variety of primatological methods that can then be used for research with all primate species and in a broad range of living situations. Endangered lemurs live in a naturalistic habitat in central 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.

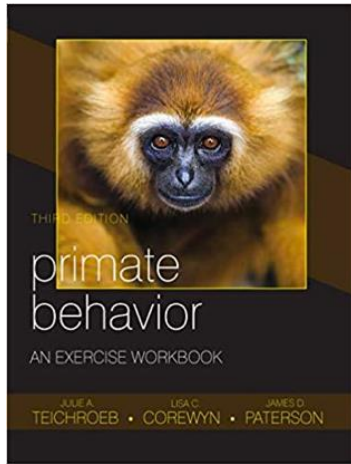
During this course, you will become part of the team who study this population, in an on-going multidisciplinary research project. You will learn how to:

- 1) 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) evaluate ongoing conservation concerns
- 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 are called a different name than what is indicated on the class roster, please let me know. Please correct me on your preferred gender pronoun. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:



TEXTS:

Primate Behavior: An Exercise Workbook
3rd Edition

J. Teichroeb, L. Corewyn, & J. D. Paterson
ISBN13: 978-1478640097

FOLDERS:

You need to purchase one 1” 3-ring binder. I will provide you 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, you will turn in their folders for grading.

FIELD EQUIPMENT:

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

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

All students must submit proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 and a negative TB test by February 13th. All students must also fill out paperwork related to health and safety. All paperwork will be distributed on the first day of class. Failure to complete any of the health and safety requirements will result in you failing the course.

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 **\$700** while those wishing to stay in the large tents provided by LCF will need to pay **\$610**. This can be paid to the department by check, cash, or money order. While we can accept payment in installments (must be **paid in full by Feb. 16**), **we cannot issue returns**. Also, please note that the lodging costs provide much-needed funding for LCF for care of the animals and upkeep of the grounds. **Food costs will be determined once enrollment is final and we have met as a group to discuss food allergies and other pertinent information.** You will need to contribute your food money by 12pm on March 1st.

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 you complete the work for which you 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: You are required to complete three preparation assignments to familiarize yourselves with primate research methods and background information on lemurs.

FIELDWORK ASSIGNMENTS: You will receive specific assignments during the field school to 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. While some team work may be required, all final assignments need to be done individually.

PARTICIPATION: Each day during the field school, you will be expected to participate fully, be helpful both in the house and while working with staff.

FINAL PROJECT: For the final project, you will write a lengthy (5-8 pages, single-spaced) project proposal that mirrors what one might submit for funding at the graduate level. You will need to get your project topic approved by Dr. Light through a Canvas submission due March 19th. The research proposal will need to explicitly discuss the methods to be used and must include one of the methods learned during the course. The final paper is due on the last day of class (April 25th).

GRADING:

This course will be embracing a “conference grading” policy in which you will assign yourself a midterm and final grade through self-assessment and a conference with me. This **DOES NOT MEAN** that you do not have work to complete for this course. What it does mean is that when you complete an assignment, you will receive full credit and *extensive* feedback and you are expected to read that feedback and implement it for future assignments. Twice during the semester, I will ask you to tell me what grade (A, B, C, D, or F) you think you deserve and to justify that assessment in relation to your performance throughout the course. While I will ultimately be responsible for assigning your final grade, I will rely mostly on your self-assessments.

GRADE DISPUTE POLICY

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.

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) There will be **NO ALCOHOL (or drug)** consumption during the time we are staying at LCF. Anyone who violates this behavioral standard will receive a full letter-grade deduction on your final grade.
- 4) 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.
- 5) 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.

POLICY ON VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM:

Academia is not structured in a way that is conducive to the multi-faceted lives of our student body here at UNC Charlotte and elsewhere throughout the country. Due to these structural limitations, I explicitly welcome guests in the classroom in the event that other arrangements cannot be made. This includes breastfeeding infants, school-aged children with school holidays, young children for whom regular childcare is temporarily not available, older individuals under your care, and any other reasonable situation. If you plan to bring a guest to class, please consider the nature of the material to be covered in class that day as many of our course discussions will include mature topics. Unfortunately, this policy is only available for on-campus course meetings – visitors cannot accompany us to the lemur facility in Florida.

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@charlotte.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.

ON CAMPUS RESOURCES AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Jamil Niner Student Pantry (JNSP): Food insecurity is defined by the USDA as “a lack of access to enough food for an active, healthy life.” Food insecure categories include: reduced caloric

intake, reduced food quality, lack of variety in diet, disrupted eating patterns, and hunger. Research shows that college students experience food insecurity at higher rates than the American household rate, and that food insecurity can negatively impact academic performance and persistence. In recognition of this problem, UNC Charlotte offers assistance to students facing food insecurity through an on-campus food pantry. The JNSP is located on the east edge of campus at 1224 John Kirk Road. It has regular hours which may change from semester to semester; please see the website at <https://ninerpantry.charlotte.edu/> for schedule and details on its services, as well as resources about hunger and food insecurity among college students.

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. 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](#); or (2) [Student Health Center](#); or (3) Department of Athletics psychologist. Additional information about your options is also available at titleix.uncc.edu under the “Students” tab.

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.

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 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.

Ethical Learning Expectations: All students and the instructors are expected to engage with each other respectfully. Unwelcome conduct directed toward another person based upon that person's actual or perceived race, actual or perceived gender, religion, age, national origin, ethnicity, disability, or veteran status, or for any other reason, may constitute a violation of University Policy 406, The Code of Student Responsibility.

Any student suspected of engaging in such conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. All students are required to abide by the [UNC Charlotte Sexual Harassment Policy](#) and the policy on [Responsible Use of University Computing and Electronic Communication Resources](#). Sexual harassment, as defined in the UNC Charlotte Sexual Harassment Policy, is prohibited, even when carried out through computers or other electronic communications systems, including course-based chat rooms or message boards.

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.

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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Week	Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment/Task Due
1	Jan 10	Intro	
2	Jan 16	Lemurs	Teichroeb et al. Ch. 1 Liability and Health Paperwork Due
3	Jan 23		Teichroeb et al. Ch. 2 First Preparation Assignment Due
4	Jan 30	Research methods	Teichroeb et al. Ch. 3; Altmann 1974 Second Preparation Assignment Due
5	Feb 6	Viz Lab!	
6	Feb 13		Teichroeb et al. Ch. 4 & 5 Proof of COVID-19 vaxx and TB test due on Feb. 13 th Payment Due in Full on Feb. 16th
7	Feb 20	Social behavior	Third Preparation Assignment Due
8	Feb 27		Midterm assessment meetings Deliver food money by noon on Friday 3/4

Spring Break Field School Schedule

Date	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Mar 2	Leave at 7 AM		
Mar 3	Silver Springs State Park	Groceries	Settling in
Mar 4	Individual ID & Primate diets	Diary method	Ethograms
Mar 5	Focal animal sampling	Scan sampling/GIS	Night Follow
Mar 6	Center for Great Apes tour	Myakka River State Park	IOR tests
Mar 7	Grooming/Fecal collection	Spatial ecology/Fecal analysis	Movie Night
Mar 8	Give Back to LCF	Radio telemetry	Farewell Party
Mar 9	Travel back to UNC Charlotte		

9	Mar 12		
10	Mar 19		Binders and Final Paper Topic Due
11	Mar 26		Teichroeb et al. Ch. 6
12	Apr 2		Teichroeb et al. Ch. 7
13	Apr 9	Check in	
14	Apr 16		
15	Apr 23		Proposal Due (Thursday, April 25 th)

FINAL ASSESSMENT DUE: Tuesday, May 7 – 11 am