

ANTHROPOLOGY 154 C/CL: The Behavior and Ecology of Primates  
T/Th 8-11:50 a.m., SS&H 2234 or CNPRC

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Meg Crofoot  
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**OFFICE HOURS:** W/Th 1-2pm  
208 Young Hall

**COURSE DESCRIPTION & GOALS:** As anthropologists, we are particularly interested in the behavior of non-human primates because we think that given (1) our close phylogenetic relationship and/or (2) the similarities in our social organization, these taxa can provide special insight into the evolutionary origins of our own species. How do we know what we (think) we know about primate behavior? In this class, we will explore various approaches to conducting scientific research on primate behavior, focusing on the design, collection and analyses of observational data. You will work in groups to identify interesting questions about primate behavior, formulate hypotheses and testable predictions to answer these questions, develop a methodology for collecting the data to test these predictions, analyze these data using statistical methods, and present the results of your study in both oral and written formats. By the end of the course, you should be well versed in conducting searches of the scientific literature and reading and assessing scientific articles, and should have developed the skills to work as a team to develop and conduct research projects and communicate the results of that research to a general audience.



**LECTURE & DISCUSSION:** Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8-8:50 am, CNPRC (Except for Week 1, which will be in SS&H 2234).

**LAB:** Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9-11:50 am, CNPRC (Except for Week 1, which will be in SS&H 2234)

**READINGS:** PDFs of the assigned articles can be downloaded from the 'Resources' tab on SmartSite.

**NECESSARY MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT:** You are responsible for having (and remembering to bring) the following items to every class:

- binoculars (I recommend 8 X 30 or 8 X 42)
- watch (or stopwatch) with a rolling count-down timer (**Note: cell phones are not allowed at the CNPRC**)
- notebook for data collection (or clipboard/datasheets)
- sunhat & sunscreen

**GRADING:** Performance in this course will be assessed via weekly writing assignments (40%), participation in class discussions (20%), and a final oral presentation of the results of your independent research project (40%). Your final presentation will be given at a Research Symposium at the CNPRC on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015. **No requests for extra credit work will be considered.**

**\*\*Note:** A PDF file of your final presentation slides will constitute the final examination for this class and will be due on (or before) the end of the final examination period (June 11<sup>th</sup>).

**Format of writing assignments:** Instructions for writing assignments will be posted on SmartSite and will be discussed in class. Hard copies of each assignment must be printed out and turned in on (or before) the due date. Documents should have 1 inch margins, be single spaced and use 12 point font. The word count or page range for each assignment does not include your bibliography/works cited section.

**Late Work:** Assignments will not be accepted after their due date.