# SYLLABUS

**Caribbean Primatology**
**Instructor: Dr. Alexana (Alex) Hickmott**
**Language of Instruction: English**
**UO Credits: 40**
**Course Number: 488**
**Contact Hours*: 120**
**Total Hours of Student Engagement (THSE) in all course activities*: 120**
**E-mail: ahickmot@uoregon.edu**
**Classroom: Walkers Reserve**
**Office Hours: Just come talk to me!**

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Primates are among the most social animals. This course will introduce you to primates in an up close and experiential way through observations of free-ranging monkeys, vervet monkeys, as they go about their daily lives. We will first introduce you to the group of mammals in the Order Primates and give you a brief overview of the evolutionary context of primate ecology and social behavior. We will examine ecological choices and behaviors that impact the way primates survive, succeed and reproduce in this natural habitat. We will use some evolutionary theoretical models to explain and understand both the patterns of behaviors that you find.

We will teach you the range of methods that primatologists use to quantify behavior and understand ecological variables and train you to use these in the field. You will then be able to follow the monkeys and collect behavioral and ecological data. We will then train you in data analysis and some basic statistical techniques and methodologies, as well as some simple computer programs for data analysis. This will enable you to both ask and answer questions like, “how is a behavior adaptive” or “what ecological factors have shaped a particular behavior”. We will also teach you how to present and disseminate the results of your research project on the behavioral ecology of the free-ranging vervets on the island of Barbados.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Learn about what primates are and understand primate behavior and ecology

2. Learn methods of data collection on primate behavior and ecology

3. Learn methods of behavioral and ecological primate data analysis

4. Gain experience in applying the scientific method to primate behavioral and ecological data

## INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY

This is an intensive 2-week class that will involve introductory lectures followed by training in methods. You will spend a large amount of this class collecting data on free-ranging primates both in study groups and under the supervision of the course professors.
There will be lectures that introduce a topic or method that will then be applied in a more hands-on learning setting. During this course, you will identify and design a research question, collect data, analyze the data and then present your findings to the group. Some of the data collection for the research project will be independently collected.

## METHOD OF EVALUATION (GRADING)

Readings will be posted on Canvas and a few printed copies will be available if internet access is unavailable.

You are expected to listen to the course lectures and comprehend the material presented to you. Course readings and videos are required and essential to this class.

Grades will be based on the final research project and presentation. You work towards this goal will be evaluated at the end of the first-week:

Participation and peer review of each stage 10%
Ethnoprimatology worksheet 10%
Primate Osteology Worksheet 10%
Research Project: Intro/Question- 10%
Research Project: Proposed Methods - 10%
Research Project: Prelim data analysis- 10%
Research Project: Prelim discussion and conclusions 10%
Research Project: Final write-up 20%
Research Project: Final presentation 10%

### Participation

The overall success of the course in part depends on the participation of students enrolled. You are expected to keep up with the assigned readings each week, actively engage in lecture and discussion, participate in assigned daily activities, demonstrate a willingness to learn the material presented, have a positive attitude, and be flexible with changes that may occur in scheduling.

**Research Project** – you are required to complete a research project. This project will be designed, collected, and reported by each student. Most of the assignments in the class will be aimed at walking students through each step in a research project centered around primatology. The goal of this is for students to go through the whole process a primatologist would go through just on a more rapid schedule as such the active participation in each step in the process is required.

### Grading Policy

Final grades will be tentatively assigned as follows: A = 90 - 100%, B = 80 - 89%, C = 70- 79%, D = 60 - 69%, F < 60% (with minus and plus grades assigned at the appropriate cutoffs). These cutoffs may be changed depending on the final distribution of grades.

**If the class is taken P/NP, a C- or higher is required to pass the course. To take the class P/NP, you must inform the instructor in writing (ideally via email) before the halfway point of the course.**

**Student Contact Hours = 120**

**Expected levels of performance:**
Grades will be posted to the Canvas site. It is your responsibility to check your grades regularly and to report any problems (e.g. missing credit).
Final grades will be tentatively assigned as follows: A = 90 - 100%, B = 80 - 89%, C = 70- 79%, D = 60 - 69%, F < 60% (with minus and plus grades assigned at the appropriate cutoffs). These cutoffs may be changed depending on the final distribution of grades.
The grading system used in this course is as follows:
**A** - Outstanding performance relative to that required to meet course requirements, demonstrates a mastery of course content at the highest level.
**B** - Performance that is significantly above that required to meet course requirements, demonstrates a mastery of course content at a high level.
**C** - Performance that meets the course requirements in every respect, demonstrates an adequate understanding of course content.
**D** - Performance that is at the minimal level necessary to pass the course but does not fully meet the course requirements; demonstrates a marginal understanding of the course content.
**F** - Performance in the course, for whatever reason, is unacceptable and does not meet the course requirements; demonstrates an inadequate understanding of the course content.

**POLICY ISSUES**
**Accessible Education Statement:** The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me as soon as possible if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation.

**Equal Opportunity Compliance Statement:** It is the policy of the University of Oregon Board of Directors that there will be no discrimination or harassment on the basis of age, disability, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status in any educational programs, activities or employment. Persons having questions about equal opportunity and non-discrimination should contact the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity at 541-346-3123.

**Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct Statement:** All work done for this course is expected to be your own, in your own words. I encourage you to be familiar with the University Student Conduct Code (available at https://policies.uoregon.edu/vol-3- administration-student-affairs/ch-1-conduct/student-conduct-code) which defines academic misconduct. Information about a common form of academic misconduct, plagiarism, is available at researchguides.uoregon.edu/citing-plagiarism. Please note that reusing for own work that has been previously submitted for a grade, self-plagiarism, constitutes academic misconduct. VeriCite will be used to check for plagiarism. The appearance or direct evidence of plagiarism will result in a meeting with me and may result in an "F" for the assignment or the course. If you are unsure about whether an act constitutes academic misconduct, please clarify with me before committing or attempting to commit the act.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

| Day | Topic | Readings | Assignments Due |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 (Mon. 7/22) | Walker's Tour ~2 hours<br><br>*Method*: How to use a GPS, binoculars, take field notes, and identify individuals | Dore, "Vervets in the Caribbean"; Springer et al., "Best practices in Monkey Deterrence" Introduction pp. 2 – 9 | |
| 2 (Tue. 7/23) | FIELD TRIP-Wildlife Refuge ~ 3- 4 hours<br><br>*Method:* Observe the monkeys & ethogram construction: including group scans, focal animal sampling, and ad libitum sampling | Martin and Bateson, Ch. 6; Optional: Altmann, 1974 | Intro/Question |
| 3 (Wed. 7/24) | FIELD TRIP-Wildlife Refuge ~ 3- 4 hours<br><br>*Method:* Non-invasive sampling: fecal & urine collection, using urine test strips<br><br>*Method:* Test data collection methods for research project | | Proposed Methods |
| 4 (Thur. 7/25) | FIELD TRIP-Wildlife Refuge ~ 3- 4 hours<br><br>*Method:* Data collection for project<br><br>*Method:* Ethnoprimatology | | |
| 5 (Fri. 7/26) | OFF | | |
| 6 (Sat. 7/27) | Guest lecture: Justin H.A. Springer<br><br>FIELD TRIP-Farm Visit | Springer et al., "Best practices in Monkey Deterrence" pp. 9 – 54 (skim) | Ethnoprimatology worksheet |

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|---|---|---|---|
| 7 (Sun. 7/28) | OFF | | **Week 2 continued: next page** |
| 8 (Mon. 7/29) | *Method*: Census methods, habituation of free-ranging primates<br><br>*Method*: Monkey dissection/ monkey sample degreasing<br><br>*Method:* Data cleaning | Williamson & Feistner, 2003 | Primate osteology/dissection worksheet |
| 9 (Tue. 7/30) | Island tour ~4-5 hours<br><br>*Method:* Data analysis *You will need RStudio or Excel on a computer for this* | Watch Stats lecture from Dr. White; Chapman, 1992; For reference: Wild Plants of Barbados - Carrington 1993 | Data analysis |
| 10 (Wed. 7/31) | *Method:* Non-invasive sampling: Fecal washing<br><br>*Method*: Monkey sample degreasing | | Discussion and conclusions |
| 11 (Thur. 8/1) | OFF | | |
| 12 (Fri. 8/2) | Wrap-up & Final Presentations | | |
| End of Primatology Section | | | |