

ANTH 350

PRIMATE BEHAVIOURAL ECOLOGY

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Ammie Kalan

Course Description and Objectives

In this course, you will learn how the discipline of primate behavioral ecology is approached and studied, as well as its many contributions to evolutionary anthropology. Students will first be introduced to the natural history, behavior, and ecology of various primate groups while learning primate taxonomy and the evolutionary patterns and trends that are observed within the primate Order. The course will also examine the major theories influencing research in primatology, particularly from the fields of behavioural ecology and evolutionary anthropology. And finally, various issues in primate conservation will be presented and discussed, especially in relation to wild populations living increasingly in human-modified environments. Multi-species comparative approaches will be used to illustrate concepts and theories throughout the course.

The course will rely on lecture materials that will be provided to the students, including any primary scientific literature. Assessments will include a midterm, final exam, and a project (to be conducted in pairs) which will help to develop your own research skills, promote creativity, and encourage you to explore your own interests in primate behavioural ecology and/or conservation.

Skills Development

Critical thinking, academic research, succinct writing practise, organizational and oral presentation skills