

ANTH 450

Selected topics in primate behavioral ecology and conservation

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Ammie Kalan

Course Description and Objectives

Seminar-based course focused on in-depth exploration of topics related to primate behavioural ecology such as foraging ecology, sexual selection, tool use, communication, culture, as well as contemporary issues pertinent to the conservation of wild primate populations. Classes will consist of round-table discussions based on contemporary journal articles and, near the end of the course, in-depth student presentations on a topic of interest.

Skills Development

Students will learn, via sets of structured questions, to read and think critically on topics important to primate ecology and conservation. Students will develop skills in library/online-based research and will engage in both upper-level writing assignments and a detailed oral presentation using powerpoint slides—in a sense, a mini-lecture to the class near the end of the course. A relaxed seminar atmosphere will encourage students to voice ideas and opinions on contemporary topics in the discipline.