

Freshman seminar: People and pups

This **freshman seminar** focuses on dog behavior and cognition to understand **why dogs are so well adapted to socializing with humans and what role they play in our societies**. This seminar offers freshmen an introduction to the field of animal behavior through discussion, guest lectures, and hands-on activities.



Freshman Seminar SSO 102.S11 | Questions? Email: catherine.markham@stonybrook.edu

Evolution of Human Behavior



This **fall** course examines **how evolutionary theory informs our understanding of human behavior**. We survey behavioral diversity and consistency across human societies, gaining insights from other social animals. Our overarching goal is to understand how and why our behaviors differ from the behaviors of other animals, and thus to gain insight into what arguably makes humans unique.

Major topics of lecture and discussion include: mating and marriage, attractiveness, parenting, cooperation, aggression and warfare, dominance and prestige, social learning, decision making, altruism, and morality.

EBH 200 | Questions? Email: catherine.markham@stonybrook.edu

Evolution of Social Complexity



This **spring** course provides an in-depth examination of **how and why social animals establish and maintain relationships with one another, especially in large and fragmented societies**.

Applying the principles of evolutionary biology and behavioral ecology, this course explores: group structure and stability; conflicts and coalitions; theory of mind and social learning; and culture and communication. Recent research on group-living mammals is emphasized.

EBH 362 | Questions? Email: catherine.markham@stonybrook.edu

BEHAVIORAL ECOLOGY

Behavioral ecologists look at the **responses of animals to their environment from an evolutionary perspective, asking questions about how behaviors contribute to survival and reproduction**. In this **fall** course, students learn about behaviors from a wide range of species to understand topics including:

- How do predators find prey and how do prey avoid predators?
- How do animals attract their mates?
- Why do some males help raise offspring and others don't?
- How do individuals communicate and coordinate their movements?
- Does genuine altruism exist?



EBH 359 | Questions? Email: catherine.markham@stonybrook.edu

Pastoralism under Pressure

Savannas, societies, and sustainability in East Africa



The productivity of East African savannas and the ability of these ecosystems to support wildlife and herds of pastoral livestock ultimately depend on water. However, in our world today, increasingly **unpredictable patterns of rainfall – along with unprecedented pressures to adopt sedentary livelihoods – threaten the health of these ecosystems and the traditional pastoralist way of life**.

Integrating the fields of ecology, hydrology, biological and cultural anthropology, and sustainability studies, this upper-level **spring** seminar course challenges students to develop **innovative approaches to promote resilience and sustainability in savanna ecosystems and societies**.

Coming Spring 2020! | Questions? Email: catherine.markham@stonybrook.edu

Methods in Studying Primates

This **study abroad** course at the Centre ValBio Research Station in Madagascar introduces students to **the concepts and practical skills needed to conduct scientific work on wild primates and other animals**.

Students gain hands-on experience on how to collect and analyze data on animal densities and distribution, use of space, and social interaction. Additional course topics will expose students to the application of these methods, including instruction on how to design research projects and how to address conservation and human health issues in the tropics.



Study Abroad Course ANP 350 | Questions? Email: catherine.markham@stonybrook.edu