

Methods in Studying Primates

Summer 2018

Instructors

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Course Description

Introduction to the concepts and practical skills needed to conduct scientific work on primates and other animals, including how to collect and analyze data on animal densities and distributions, use of space, and social interactions. 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. Experiential learning and group discussions are emphasized.

Required Readings

There are no required textbooks. However, students are required to read peer-reviewed journal articles. Electronic copies of these articles will be available to students once they arrive at the field school. For use in the field, students *may* wish to purchase the following guides:

Austin D, Garbutt N. 2015 Madagascar Wildlife, 4th edition. Princeton University Press: Princeton, NJ.

Hawkins F, Safford R, Skerrett A. 2016. Birds of Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands. Christopher Helm: London, UK.

Assessment and Evaluation

Attendance: Attendance for all course activities is mandatory. If a student is not feeling well and cannot participate in a scheduled activity, they are asked to discuss the situation with the professors so that appropriate care can be sought and an alternative assignment can be arranged. Students are responsible for any material missed due to illness.

Field notebook: Students keep a field notebook to record their field observations and collected data. Daily entries are expected.

Oral presentations: Students are required to give brief, informal presentations based on course-related material (*e.g.* summarizing peer-reviewed journal articles). Details and presentation dates will be provided as the course progresses.

Final exam: Students take one written exam at the end of the course on **Jun 6**. The exam will be comprised of short-answer questions.

Grading: This course is a 3-credit course. Students will receive a grade between A and F based on their active participation, field notebooks, oral presentation, and final exam according to the following calculations:

<i>Active participation</i>	45%
<i>Field Notebook</i>	25%
<i>Oral Presentations</i>	5%
<i>Final Exam</i>	25%

Your final letter grade for the semester will be assigned based on the following ranges. Note that there is no “extra credit” offered for this course and that grades are not curved.

A	93 to 100	B+	87 to <90	C+	77 to <80	D+	67 to <70
A-	90 to <93	B	83 to <87	C	73 to <77	D	63 to <67
		B-	80 to <83	C-	70 to <73	F	0 to <63

Student Accessibility Support Center Statement

If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Student Accessibility Support Center, ECC (Educational Communications Center) Building, Room 128, (631) 632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations, if any, are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Academic Integrity Statement

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person’s work as your own is always wrong. Faculty is required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health Technology & Management, Nursing, Social Welfare, Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty please refer to the academic judiciary website at

http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/academic_integrity/index.html

Critical Incident Management

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of University Community Standards any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students’ ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. Further information about most academic matters can be found in the Undergraduate Bulletin, the Undergraduate Class Schedule, and the Faculty-Employee Handbook.

Course Evaluations

Each semester, Stony Brook University asks students to provide feedback on their courses and instructors through an online course evaluation system. The course evaluation results are used by the individual faculty, department chairs and deans to help the faculty enhance their teaching skills and are used as part of the personnel decision for faculty promotion and tenure.

Stony Brook contracts with an outside vendor to administer the surveys and all results are completely anonymous. No individually identifiable data are ever reported back to the university or

instructor. Students who have completed previous evaluations can view all faculty ratings at <https://www.stonybrook.edu/celt/services/assessment/course/course-evaluations>

Copyright Notice

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Course Schedule

See below for key dates. Note that dates are subject to change!

DAY	DATE	TIME	TOPIC(S)
Sat	May 26	Morning Afternoon Evening	Tour of CVB; Malagasy lesson; Course overview Hike in Ranomafana forest Welcome party!
Sun	May 27	Morning Afternoon Evening	Malagasy lesson; Tour of Ranomafana town and market day <i>Free time</i> Movie night
Mon	May 28	Morning Afternoon Evening	Malagasy lesson; Visits from Mayor, MNP, and Pivot Office How to read and write scientific papers Night walk
Tue	May 29	Morning Afternoon Evening	Entomology and sampling aquatic invertebrates Surveys of reptiles and amphibians Daily wrap-up
Wed	May 30	Morning Afternoon Evening	Ornithology and mist-netting birds Malagasy lesson; Introduction to lemurs of Madagascar Daily wrap-up
Thu	May 31	Morning Afternoon Evening	Primateology and behavioral animal sampling Primateology and behavioral animal sampling <i>cont.</i> Daily wrap-up
Fri	Jun 1	Morning Afternoon Evening	Tree walk in Ranomafana forest Reforestation project presentation and activity Daily wrap-up
Sat	Jun 2	Morning Afternoon Evening	Malagasy lesson; TEAM project presentation Visit Sahavondronina village and women weaver's association <i>To be determined</i>
Sun	Jun 3	Morning Afternoon	Market day Visit Ambodiaviavy village

		Evening	<i>Free time</i>
Mon	Jun 4	Morning	Tropical parasitology
		Afternoon	How to conduct interviews; Mobile health team presentation
		Evening	Media and conservation presentation
Tue	Jun 5	Morning	Final exam review (<i>students work independently</i>)
		Afternoon	Student presentations (5pm – send to instructors by 4pm)
		Evening	Feeding behavior of indris and environmental education presentation
Wed	Jun 6	Morning	Final exam review (<i>students work independently</i>)
		Afternoon	Final exam
		Evening	<i>Free time</i>