

Department of Anthropology

ANT 2264A-650 - Issues in Primate Conservation

COURSE OUTLINE

FALL 2023

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Instructor and Course Information:

Dr. Ian Colquhoun

Email: colquhou@uwo.ca (contact me about anything concerning the course!)

Office hours: By appointment -- email me. Meetings held via 'Zoom'.

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: None.

This course is conducted online. It is *asynchronous*, meaning that students will be provided with a variety of lesson materials and activities that can be done throughout the week, although there may be tasks that must be completed by specific times.

Course Description:

Since 2000, Conservation International, together with the International Primatological Society and the IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group, have collaborated in issuing a biennial list of the *World's 25 Most Endangered Primates* (2000-02, 2002-04, 2004-06, 2006-08, 2008-10, 2010-12, 2012-14, 2014-16, 2016-18, 2018-20, and 2022-23 -- covering 2020-'22). The *Primates in Peril* "Top 25" is not an "official" listing (like the IUCN/SSC Red Data List -- generally referred to in the media as the "Endangered Species List"), but has instead served as a media tool to raise public awareness about where conservation action is most needed. In this course, the Top 25 Most Endangered Primates will serve as a backdrop to our consideration of the spectrum of conservation issues confronting primatologists today. Topics to be examined will include: the conservation assessment process (how do we determine that a species/sub-species is endangered?); major variables for understanding the conservation biology of nonhuman primate populations (what is going on?); strategies and tactics in primate conservation (what will work where?); biogeographic patterns in, and perspectives on, factors contributing to the decline of nonhuman primate populations (what is going on in Madagascar, Africa, Asia, and the Neotropics?); and, how ethnoprimateology -- the study of the interactions between humans and nonhuman primate populations -- can be a useful tool in primate conservation.

Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- navigate the conservation literature relating to nonhuman primate species, appreciate the incredible biodiversity represented by the members of the Order Primates, and understand the range of conservation threats to that biodiversity;
- exhibit familiarity with the ecological processes involved in habitat disturbance and fragmentation, and population responses to those pressures;
- be aware of the ongoing efforts to monitor the conservation statuses of primate populations and species, be able to communicate conservation strategies and tactics, and appreciate the increasing importance of involving local communities in conservation efforts;
- recognize how different primate species in different "primate habitat" countries face different

conservation pressures (and may respond to those pressures differently) -- which highlights the need for conservation tactics and strategies that are tailored to local conditions (both in terms of considering and incorporating the behavioural ecology requirements of threatened species in conservation tactics and strategies, and engaging and including local communities in conservation efforts).

Course Materials:

The required text is:

Cowlishaw, G. and Dunbar, R.I.M. (2000). *Primate Conservation Biology*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.

Additionally, Western Libraries also has electronic versions of two recently published edited volumes that focus on primate conservation and you may find of use (for supplemental info.):

- *Primate ecology and conservation: a handbook of techniques* (edited by Eleanor J. Sterling, Nora Bynum and Mary E. Blair). Oxford : Oxford University Press, 2013.

<http://alpha.lib.uwo.ca/search~S20/?tprimate+ecology+and+conservation/tprimate+ecology+and+conservation/1%2C2%2C2%2CB/frameset&FF=tprimate+ecology+and+conservation+a+handbook+of+techniques&1%2C1%2C>

- *An introduction to primate conservation* (edited by Serge A. Wich and Andrew J. Marshall). Oxford : Oxford University Press, 2013.

<http://alpha.lib.uwo.ca/search~S20/?searchtype=t&searcharg=introduction+to+primate+conservation&searchscope=20&sortdropdown=&SORT=D&extended=0&SUBMIT=Search&searchlimits=&searchorigarg=tprimate+ecology+and+conservation>

Evaluation:

The following is the tentative breakdown of this course's evaluated work:

- a 'take-home' mid-term test (35% of final grade),
- a Conservation Action Plan (CAP) project -- construct a mock-CAP for an endangered primate species or a threatened area of primate habitat of your choice** (30% of final grade; **details to follow),
- a 'take-home' final exam (35% of final grade)

For the purposes of this procedure, a take-home examination is normally considered to be an assessment that could reasonably be completed by a well-prepared student in 6 hours or less. As a guideline, for long-answer and essay-based take-home examinations, the expectation is that completion of the assessment will require 2000 words or less.

Students will be provided online access to the examination at least 24 hours prior to the beginning of the examination slot assigned by the Office of the Registrar. Papers will be due by the end of the assigned examination slot, and will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism.

Note on Mid-term and Final tests -- Because Anthropology 2264A-650 is being delivered as an asynchronous online course, Western has a policy that mid-term and final tests can only be in one

of two formats: **i)** "real-time" tests conducted online with 'cyberproctor' software, or **ii)** "take-home" tests that are administered over two consecutive days, with a 24-hour "question reveal" period (during which time students can be preparing their test answers) followed by a 6-hour window during which completed test answers must be submitted via the course OWL site. **We will be using "take-home" test formats for the mid-term and final tests in Anthropology 2264A-650.**

Academic and Accommodation Policies

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current [Academic Rights and Responsibilities](#) policies in the Academic Calendar. Such items include accommodations for students with disabilities, religious holidays, consideration for medical illness, academic appeals, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and code of student conduct.

Statement on Seeking Special Accommodations

No accommodations will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after an assignment's due date or a missed lab or test. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you will be seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds.

Accessible Education

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. Please see [Accessible Education](#) for information.

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Statement on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. It is also a scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence. Please visit Western Libraries to read about [What is Plagiarism?](#)

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