ANTH 347C(31725): METHODS IN PRIMATE BIOLOGY
W 1-5 PM
Classroom: SAC 5.124
Computer Lab: CLA 1.402
Field Location: Austin Zoo, 10808 Rawhide Trail, Austin TX 78736

Instructor: Mariah E. Hopkins, PhD
Department of Anthropology
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Phone: 512-471-0054
Office: SAC 5.124
Office Hours: T/TH 12:30-1:30 or by appt.

Teaching Assistant: Lina Valencia, MA
Email: linavalencia@utexas.edu
Phone: 512-232-6496
Office: SAC 5.162
Office Hours: M 3-5 pm or by appt.

Course Description: This course surveys methods used in primatology for the study of primate behavior, ecology, and conservation. Students gain familiarity with common techniques for the study of primate behavior & ecology through lecture and laboratory exercises. These may include introductions to behavioral sampling, wildlife census methods, bioacoustic analysis, radio-telemetry, remote monitoring via camera traps, GPS, and Geographic Information Systems, among other techniques. As a substantial writing component course, the bulk of the course grade comes from practicum exercises and research projects. Students will learn to conduct library research, develop novel hypotheses, collect original data, perform basic statistical analyses, and write-up their results in standard scientific format similar to what primatologists use when submitting their work to an academic journal.

Required Text:
Prospect Heights, IL.

Recommended Texts:

**Additional Readings:** Provided via CANVAS (check regularly!) and in-class.

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**Course Objectives:**
1. To gain familiarity with methods used in primatology for the study of animal behavior, ecology, and conservation.
2. To learn how to write in standard scientific format, and to improve student writing skills through revision and instructor feedback.
3. To conduct an independent research project, in which students learn how to generate novel hypotheses, develop appropriate methods, conduct observations and analyses, and present results to a scientific audience.

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**Course Format:** Lecture, Laboratory Exercises, & Independent Research

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**GRADING:** Final course grades will be allocated using the +/- system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
<th>% Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Practicum Worksheets/Write-Ups</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Research Paper (4-6 pp)</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Research Paper Re-Write (4-6 pp)</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Original Research Paper (12-15 pp)</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Original Research Paper Re-Write (12-15 pp)</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation of Research Project (12 min)</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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**NOTE:** THERE ARE NO EXAMS IN THIS COURSE!

**WRITING FLAG:** This course carries the Writing Flag. Writing Flag courses are designed to give students experience with writing in an academic discipline. In this class, you can expect to write regularly during the semester, complete substantial writing projects, and receive feedback from your instructor to help you improve your writing. You will also have the opportunity to revise one or more assignments, and you may be asked to read and discuss your peers’ work. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from your written work. Writing Flag classes meet the Core Communications objectives of Critical Thinking, Communication, Teamwork, and Personal Responsibility, established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
PRACTICUMS (30% of your grade): Practicums will be conducted to teach field primatology methods. These methods may include:

Population Censusing/Developing Population Estimates
Basic Bio-Acoustic Sampling & Analysis
Individual Identification & Ethogram Generation
Behavioral Sampling Techniques (focal and scan)
Remote Monitoring (radio-telemetry and/or camera trap placement)
Introduction to GPS/GIS Use & Habitat Selection Studies
Ecological Sampling (habitat characterization, food abundance estimation)
Scientific Writing & Data Analysis

Each week, the selection of practicum topics will depend on student progress and interests, equipment availability, and weather conditions.

Notice of Outdoor Work: As this is a course that will teach you how to study primates, many practicums necessitate that we get outdoors. You will be expected to walk outside on campus or in city parks, and to travel to the Austin Zoo on several occasions (2-3 visits expected, depending on class progress). You can expect to walk 0.5-1 mile on some of these assignments.

Missed Practicum Policy: Practicums cannot be made up in office hours! As a result, you may choose to skip one practicum worksheet/write-up. Alternatively, you can complete all practicums and throw out your bottom score.

Austin Zoo Requirement: The department will cover all entrance fees to the Austin Zoo during class times. There is a sign-up sheet at the gift shop. Simply sign your name and enter. However, you are responsible for arranging your own transportation to the zoo. Should you choose to conduct your original research project at the zoo, please discuss with the instructor whether it will be possible for the Department of Anthropology to cover your entrance fees. This will depend on your project’s methods (duration, # visits required, etc.)

LIBRARY RESEARCH PAPER (15 % of your grade): You will write a 4-6 pp paper that will describe the behavior and ecology of a primate species of your choosing, and which will identify and discuss an interesting characteristic found in that species. This paper will be completed in two stages: an initial paper and a re-write after instructor feedback.
ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER (30% of your grade): You will develop a novel hypothesis, collect original data, perform basic statistical analyses, and write-up your results in standard scientific format (Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion). The subjects of your research can be primates or other animals at the Austin Zoo, any urban wildlife you can observe (e.g. squirrels, birds, raccoons, turtles), or even humans. This research will be completed in stages that include 1) several in-class workshops to delineate hypotheses and establish appropriate methods, 2) submission of a project proposal, 3) submission of the Introduction/Methods, 4) submission of the Results/Discussion, and 5) a re-write of the entire paper.

RESEARCH PRESENTATION (10% of your grade): You will prepare a 12 minute power-point presentation in standard conference format on your research project, which will be presented to the class during the Finals period in lieu of a final exam.

PARTICIPATION (15% of your grade): This is a very small class in which we rely on each other daily to complete assignments and to generate interesting discussions. As such, it benefits everyone for you to come to class regularly, prepared and having completed the assigned readings. Please make sure to check Canvas regularly for readings as well as for the location of the day! This course will meet in three different locations: the classroom, the computer lab, and the Austin Zoo. It is imperative that you show up at the right place at the right time.

COURSE PLAN

Due dates for major course projects are outlined here. Practicum topics will vary, as selection of these topics will depend upon course progress and weather conditions (i.e. radio-tracking cannot be done in the rain, behavioral observations cannot be completed in freezing temperatures when most primates are inactive, etc.) ‘Research Workshop’ days will involve substantial amounts of time devoted to delineating your research project topic and methods, and to reviewing scientific writing. Readings will be provided weekly via Canvas. Note: This course plan is tentative and may change depending upon student progress.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>PLANNED ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>PAPER DUE DATES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/20</td>
<td>Course Introduction &amp; Intro to Behavioral Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/27</td>
<td>Behavioral Sampling</td>
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<td>2/3</td>
<td>Zoo Day</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/10</td>
<td>Zoo Day II</td>
<td>Library Research Paper Due!</td>
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<td>2/17</td>
<td>Analysis/Statistics</td>
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<td>2/24</td>
<td>Intro to Science Writing</td>
<td>Project Proposal Due!</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/2</td>
<td>Research Workshop</td>
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<td>3/16</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<td>3/23</td>
<td>Population Estimation</td>
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<td>3/30</td>
<td>Radio-Telemetry/GPS</td>
<td>Introduction &amp; Methods Draft Due!</td>
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<td>4/6</td>
<td>Tracking Basics</td>
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<td>4/13</td>
<td>GIS Analysis</td>
<td>Results &amp; Discussion Draft Due!</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/20</td>
<td>Bioacoustics</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/27</td>
<td>Ecological Sampling</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/3</td>
<td>Research Project Presentations</td>
<td>Project Presentations &amp; Original Paper Re-Write Due!</td>
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**STATEMENT OF POLICIES**

**CREDIT/NO-CREDIT:** In order to pass you must complete both research papers (library and original).

**LATE WORK:**
Late work will be penalized 10% each day it is late. Since we only meet once per week, you will have something due almost every week. It is critical that you meet deadlines.

**ADD/DROP/WITHDRAWAL:**
For appropriate deadlines, please see your academic advisor. Important dates can also be found at http://registrar.utexas.edu/calendars/15-16.

**Q DROP POLICY**
The State of Texas has enacted a law that limits the number of course drops for academic reasons to six (6). As stated in Senate Bill 1231: “Beginning with the fall 2007 academic term, an institution of higher education may not permit an undergraduate student a total of more than six dropped courses, including any course a transfer student has dropped at another institution of higher education, unless the student shows good cause for dropping more than that number.”

**COURSE EVALUATIONS:**
The standard Instructional Assessment and Evaluation form will be used.
RE-GRADING POLICY: You must dispute a grade within one week of receipt. All disputes must be presented during my office hours, and you must accompany each dispute with a clear and concise explanation in writing of why a re-grade is necessary.

USE OF CANVAS:
In this class I use CANVAS—at http://courses.utexas.edu—to distribute course materials, to communicate and collaborate online, to post grades, to submit assignments, and to give you online quizzes and surveys. You can find support in using CANVAS at the ITS Help Desk at 475-9400, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., so plan accordingly.

CLASS WEB SITES AND STUDENT PRIVACY:
Web-based, password-protected class sites will be associated with all academic courses taught at the University. Syllabi, handouts, assignments and other resources are types of information that may be available within these sites. Site activities could include exchanging e-mail, engaging in class discussions and chats, and exchanging files. In addition, electronic class rosters will be a component of the sites. Students who do not want their names included in these electronic class rosters must restrict their directory information in the Office of the Registrar, Main Building, Room 1. For information on restricting directory information, see the General Information Catalog or go to: http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs.

USE OF E-MAIL FOR OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE:
Email is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, you are responsible for reading your email for university and course-related information and announcements. You are responsible to keep the university informed about changes to your e-mail address. You should check your e-mail regularly and frequently to stay current with university-related communications, some of which may be time-critical. You can find UT Austin’s policies and instructions for updating your e-mail address at http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HONOR CODE:
The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY & SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:
All students must abide by the University Code of Academic Integrity. For details see: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php. Plagiarism is a serious offense. Though discussion of course topics is encouraged, copying of work in part or full is not permitted. Talking of any kind during exams is also prohibited. If you are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism please see http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis_avoid.php. Should plagiarism occur, a zero will automatically be given to both the student who copies and the student who provided the work. Penalties can also include failure of the
course and disciplinary action at the university level. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty (see: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis.php) are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, visit the Student Judicial Services web site http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/, and the General Information Catalog.

**DOCUMENTED DISABILITY STATEMENT:**
The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone).

**RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS:**
By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

**EMERGENCY EVACUATION POLICY:**
Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform me in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow my instructions or those of class instructors.
- Do not re-enter a building unless you’re given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.