

## ANTH 42: Primates in Nature

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**Lectures:** CSB 004

**TTh:** 9:30 – 10:50

**OH:** W & Th @ 11 or by appt.

### About the course:

There are 19 Orders in the Class Mammalia. Some are familiar by name: Rodentia, Carnivora. Others you may not recognize by formal name, but you do know them as groups of animals: Cetacea (whales and dolphins), Chiroptera (bats). Others are pretty obscure: Scandentia (tree shrews), Dermoptera (flying lemurs [which don't fly and aren't lemurs]), or one of my favorites, Macroscelidea (elephant shrews; sounds like an oxymoron). I believe I'm right saying just *one* of these Orders has its own discipline, with at least 5 scientific journals devoted to it: Primates. No puzzle; we're primates ourselves and so are interested in our Order because it gives us a unique perspective on who we are and where we came from. This is not the *only* perspective; we can learn about ourselves from studies of dolphins, or parrots for that matter. This class is an introduction to primates and primatology. The "in nature" part is there because the focus is on primates themselves, out in the wild, and not on them as "model systems" used as proxies for humans in biomedical research—another facet of the field of primatology.

**Text:** Falk, D. (2000) Primate Diversity. NY: Norton. At Groundworks Books

Dean Falk's specialization is paleoneurology (studying the brains of extinct species by looking at impressions left by the brain on the inside of fossil skulls – like I said, *specialization*). As a result, information and asides concerning brains and cognition are scattered throughout. We'll be looking at some cognition-related topics near the end of the quarter; don't forget the relevant snippets.

### Grading:

The text has "Review Exercises" every few pages (about 20-30 per chapter). Unless otherwise announced, there will be a quiz covering the reading due for that day, *every day* at the start of class, with about 5-6 questions drawn from those exercises. There will be a total of about 100 questions at 1 point each during the quarter, and then a 30point final exam with questions drawn from lectures, including the films. You thus know exactly what to study for, when. Grades will be curved (i.e., highest score = A, even if highest is only 75% of possible), but with a "floor": if you get at least 66% overall, you are guaranteed a pass (P or C-). Above that I will curve the totals, with *about* 30:40:30 distribution of A, B, and Cs (may be fewer Cs, will depend on the distribution of scores). I may rewrite some of the exercise questions (e.g., from open-ended to multiple choice) but bottom line is that if you know the Review Exercises cold and do better than chance on the final, you'll do pretty well.

FYI: Southern California Primate Research Forum (SCPRF) on 24 April at Cal State Fullerton  
(focus on mate choice in humans and other primates): <http://scprf.ucsd.edu/>

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|---|------|---|
| 1 | 3/30 | Basics of the course, taxonomy, and primates.                                   |
| 2 | 4/1  | Primate evolution.<br>Falk: Introduction and Ch. 1 (~40pp)                      |
| 3 | 4/6  | Methods 1. How to watch monkeys.<br>Falk: Ch. 2 pp. 43 – 54                     |
| 4 | 4/8  | Methods 2. How to interpret complex monkey behavior<br>Falk: Ch. 2 pp. 54 – 61. |

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| 5  | 4/13 | Galagos, lorises and tarsiers<br>Falk: Ch. 3 (22pp)  |
| 6  | 4/15 | Lemurs: Dominant females<br>Falk: Ch. 4 (up to Indridae)   |
| 7  | 4/20 | <b>Film:</b> Prosimians.<br>Falk: Ch. 4 (Indridae to end)  |
| 8  | 4/22 | Callitrichids: Biparental care<br>Falk: Ch. 5 (30pp)   |
| 9  | 4/27 | Cebids and others<br>Falk: Ch. 6 (pp 145-163)  |
| 10 | 4/29 | Atelines: stomachs and tails<br>Falk: Ch. 6 (pp. 163 to end)   |
| 11 | 5/4  | The colobines: Ecological niches<br>Falk: Ch. 7 (pp. 173-188)  |
| 12 | 5/6  | Langurs and the evolution of infanticide<br><b>Film:</b> <i>Hanuman langurs: Monkeys of India</i><br>Falk: Ch. 7 pp. 188 - end |
| 13 | 5/11 | Guenons and others: Species and speciation. <b>Film:</b> <i>Masked Monkeys</i><br>Falk: Ch. 8 (29 pp).                         |
| 14 | 5/13 | Macaques and baboons<br>Falk: Ch. 9 (29 pp)  |
| 15 | 5/18 | Gibbons<br>Falk: Ch. 10 (33 pp)  |
| 16 | 5/20 | Orangutans<br>Falk: Ch. 11 (30pp)  |
| 17 | 5/25 | Gorillas<br>Falk: Ch. 12 (33p)   |
| 18 | 5/27 | Chimpanzees<br>Falk: Ch. 13 (pp. 319 - 332)  |
| 19 | 6/1  | Cognition.<br>Falk: Ch. 13 (pp. 332+)  |
| 20 | 6/3  | Hominins & Ugalla<br>Falk: Ch. 14 (12 pp), Epilogue  |

FINAL EXAM: **Tuesday June 8 8-11am**