Instructor: Dr. Jacinta Beehner  
Office: 3026 East Hall  
Office hours: W 1-3 (or by appointment)  
Phone: 764-2415  
Email: jbeehner@umich.edu

Classroom: 418 West Hall  
Class time: Tu, Th 2:30 – 4:00 (class will start promptly at 2:40)  
Website: https://ctools.umich.edu/portal

COURSE DESCRIPTION  
You need to already have taken Anthro 368 or Psych 335 to be registered for this course. This is an advanced undergraduate/graduate course examining the ecology and behavior of non-human primates. Using mainly primary research articles, we will explore several themes in primate behavioral ecology including reproductive strategies, sexual selection, behavioral endocrinology, cooperation and conflict, cultural transmission, and primate cognition. The objectives of this class are (1) to provide an overview to some of the exciting research areas in primate behavior and (2) to help bring advanced undergraduates up to graduate level in their reading, understanding, and writing about primate-related topics. Emphasis will be placed on critical thinking and clear and concise writing.

COURSE MATERIALS  
All course readings in this course will be primary research articles or review articles. This course assumes you already have “textbook” primate information well under your belt. If you feel you are behind on a particular topic, please re-read the appropriate chapter in Strier’s *Primate Behavioral Ecology* textbook (3rd edition) to get you up to speed. PDFs for each assigned paper will be available on the CTools website for this class. Updated versions of this syllabus, all handouts (describing assignments), and all papers will be available on the CTools website.

GRADING  
Your grade will be based on daily quizzes, a presentation, 2 short papers, and a final paper. At any time during the semester, you may check the CTools site to retrieve your points towards the categories below. Weighting of grades will be:

- Primate quiz = 5%
- Daily quizzes = 15%
- In-class presentation = 20%
- 2 short papers (~3-5 pp) = 30%
- 1 final paper (~10-15 pp) = 30%

Final grade = 100%
READINGS & QUIZZES
All readings are to be completed before you come to class on the day listed. Each day will start with a daily quiz on the assigned readings. Quizzes will be easy if you’ve done the reading. You may drop your 5 lowest quizzes at the end of the semester (this includes all excused and unexcused absences).

PRESENTATION
You will be responsible for presenting the results of 1-2 papers during the semester. The papers will be some of the already-selected readings for class. You will choose the day/topic that you would like to present (first come, first serve basis, so email me your top 3 topics soon!). On days you are presenting, I will lecture for the first hour of class. You will present your paper during the last half hour of class using a brief Powerpoint presentation. The day before your presentation, you must email me your Powerpoint presentation by 8:00 pm (so I can be sure it works on my computer).

SHORT PAPERS
You will write 2 short papers across the semester (3-5 pp, single-spaced, depending on assignment). Each assignment will be further explained in a handout, but will require you to summarize and analyze one or more research articles. All writing assignments are due on the CTools site by midnight on the due date. Late assignments will be reduced by 2 points for each day they are late (each short paper is worth 20 points total, so this is an entire letter grade for each day late).

FINAL PAPER
You will write a final paper that is a longer version of the short papers (~10-15 pp, single-spaced). I encourage topics for final papers to be “question”-oriented rather than “species”-oriented. As class progresses, think about what theoretical area that we cover in class interests you the most. Your topic must be related to one of the theoretical issues we cover in class, but can be based on a related issue that we didn’t necessarily cover. You’ll learn more about this paper in a handout.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
This is not usually an issue in this class, but professors in LSA have been urged by the college to provide an explicit statement of their course policy with respect to academic integrity. The standards for academic integrity in this course are the same as those for the whole of LSA. I urge all students to take a look at the LSA website where these issues are discussed in greater detail:

http://www.lsa.umich.edu/academicintegrity/

Although I have not had any issues on this topic yet, the most likely infringement of academic integrity for this class would be plagiarism – or representing someone else’s ideas, words, statements, or other work as one’s own without proper acknowledgment or citation. We’ll talk about how to avoid any hint of plagiarism when we discuss proper writing and citation techniques. If you have any questions about behavioral expectations and guidelines for this class beyond what is found on this link, please feel free to contact me.
COURSE OUTLINE

Jan 06 (Th) Introduction
Jan 11 (Tu) Overview of the living primates
Jan 13 (Th) Quiz on Primate Order, Library tutorial
Jan 18 (Tu) Primate social systems
Jan 20 (Th) Dominance hierarchies
Jan 25 (Tu) Socioecology and females
Jan 27 (Th) Socioecology and males
Feb 01 (Tu) Life history evolution
Feb 03 (Th) Sexual selection

FIRST PAPER DUE

Feb 08 (Tu) Reproductive strategies of females
Feb 10 (Th) Reproductive strategies of males
Feb 15 (Tu) Sexual conflict
Feb 17 (Th) Parent-offspring conflict
Feb 22 (Tu) Behavioral endocrinology: Stress
Feb 24 (Th) Behavioral endocrinology: Aggression

SECOND PAPER DUE

Mar 01 (Tu) Spring Break – no class
Mar 03 (Th) Spring Break – no class
Mar 08 (Tu) Cooperation
Mar 10 (Th) Kin selection
Mar 15 (Tu) The biological marketplace
Mar 17 (Th) Fairness and equality
Mar 22 (Tu) Adaptive value of social bonds
Mar 24 (Th) Introduction to cognition – Movie: Monkey in the Mirror

FINAL PAPER TOPIC DUE

Mar 29 (Tu) Cognition
Mar 31 (Th) Solving ecological problems
Apr 05 (Tu) Communication and language
Apr 07 (Th) Theory of mind
Apr 12 (Tu) Learning and culture
Apr 14 (Th) AAPA conference – no class

FINAL PAPER OUTLINE

Apr 19 (Tu) Final paper issues
Apr 26 (Tu) FINAL PAPER DUE