



**Anth 466 / 566
Primate
Feeding &
Nutrition**



**Anth 466 / 566 Primate Feeding and Nutrition
Spring 2008**

Prof: Dr. Frances White
Location: PETR 102
Time: Monday and Wednesday 12:00-13:50
Office hours: Condon 352, Wednesday 9:00 to 11:00 am
Email: fwhite@uoregon.edu

Prerequisites: Students should have had at least one introductory course in biological anthropology (Anth 171 or 270).

Overview: This class examines primate feeding and nutrition from an evolutionary perspective. I will assume you are familiar with the Order Primates and the morphological and taxonomic differences between Strepsirhine and Haplorhine (or apes, monkeys and prosimians). We will explore the diversity of anatomical, physiological, and behavioral adaptations found among primate species, focusing on the application of behavioral ecology theory to the evolution of primate feeding strategies.

Course Organization and Format: As a 4/500 level upper division course, I expect a high level of participation from everyone. The course is divided into three phases, each with a different classroom format. The course will start with a series of traditional lectures on foraging and nutrition theory with its application to primate studies. We will also do a lab-based study of dental adaptations. The second phase of the class will be a series of seminars. You will learn that preparation is important in order to both participate in and learn from seminar format. My goal here is both to provide you with training and experience in academic seminars as well as using group activities to learn about selected areas of primate nutrition in depth. The third phase of the class will be a series of group projects and presentations that will examine selected topics of primate foraging and the application of theory to the feeding and nutritional strategies of particular groups of primates in depth. Presentations are required in PowerPoint format. Group projects are written up individually as co-authored papers in the style of the American Journal of Primatology. The different exercises used in this class are designed to help you in exercising your critical thinking, writing, and presentation skills in biological anthropology.

Grading: Each seminar will be based on six articles posted on the blackboard site. Each seminar will be lead by a team of 4 students who will provide a summary of the topic at the start of the discussion. Undergraduate students are required to read one article, write on summary (max of 1 page) on that article and be prepared to present on this article and place it in context. Graduate students will be required to read all six articles and produce a one page synthesis of the topic.

Undergraduate student grades will be based:

Article summaries (1 page each for 6 articles):	30%
Seminar leading: preparation and participation:	10%
Seminar participation:	10%
Group project presentation:	10%
Project write-up (5 page maximum):	40%

Graduate student grades will be based on:

Article synthesis (1 page each for 6 topics):	30%
Seminar leading: preparation and participation:	10%
Seminar participation:	10%
Group project presentation:	10%
Project write-up (10 pages):	40%

Blackboard site: The Blackboard site for this class contains all of the required and review reading for the class.

Cheating and Academic Honesty: As stated in the University of Oregon Policy on Academic Honesty “to present the words, ideas, data or work of another as one’s own, or to cheat on an examination corrupts the essential process by which knowledge is advanced”. Anyone caught cheating or engaged in any form of academic dishonesty will fail this course.

Discrimination: I am committed to fostering the University of Oregon’s goals of encouraging a caring and supportive atmosphere on campus and of promoting a campus climate that understands and respects the needs of a culturally, ethnically, physically, and socially diverse student body. Also the University of Oregon is an Affirmative Action / Equal opportunity Institution. There will be no tolerance of discrimination in this class on the basis of any of the categories described in the University’s anti-discrimination policy. Please let me know if you feel discriminated against in any way. Dr. Kenneth Lehrman at the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity (346-2971) may also be of assistance.

Physical or Learning Disabilities: If you have a disability that affects your performance in this class, please contact disabilities services to request a letter verifying your disability and any reasonable adjustments necessary for you to complete the course. Please provide me with this letter as early in the term as possible.

Schedule for classes (readings are posted on the Blackboard site:

Week (Dates)	
1	Introduction to Primate Feeding and Foraging theory
	Foraging models
2	Food distribution: the question of patches, marginal value theorem
	NO CLASS – AAPA meetings
3	Economics of defense, risk sensitive foraging
	Food properties (physical, chemical, taste)
4	Dental adaptations (in 368 Condon)
	Digestive strategies
5	Seminar 1: Special foods: Self medication
	Seminar 1: Special foods: tool use
6	Seminar 2: Primate Diets: Keystone vs. Fallback, food scarcity strategies
	Seminar 2: Primate Diets: seasonality
7	Seminar 3: Feeding and morphology: post-cranial - posture and locomotion
	Seminar 3: Feeding and morphology: cranial – teeth, cheek pouches, etc.
8	Project reports: Niche overlap
	Project reports: Ranging and cognition
9	Project reports: Folivory and leaf monkeys
	Project reports: Community structure
10	Project reports: Seed dispersal
	Project reports: Hunting and meat