**ANTH 348K (31360): PRIMATE CONSERVATION**
**T/TH 9:30-11**
**Classroom: WEL 3.266**
**Computer Lab: SAC 5.112**

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**Instructor: Mariah E. Hopkins, PhD**
**Department of Anthropology**
**Email: hopkins@austin.utexas.edu**
**Phone: 512-471-0054**
**Office: SAC 5.148**
**Office Hours: Th 11-12 or by appt.**

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**Course Description:** This course surveys the theory and practices of conservation biology, as applied specifically to primates. Topics will include species and community characteristics influencing extinction risk, current threats to primates, and potential conservation strategies.

**Prerequisites:** This is an upper division course. Prior background in physical anthropology or ecology is recommended, but not required. Ability to perform basic algebra is necessary.

**Required Text:** Cowlishaw, G. & R. Dunbar. 2000. Primate Conservation Biology. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

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

**Computer Programs (Freeware) Used:** Vortex 9 Population Viability Analysis Software (B. Lacey, Chicago Zoological Society) and Landscape Species Selection II (Wildlife Conservation Society). Both computer programs require a PC, or a Mac that runs Windows.

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**Course Objectives:**
1. To understand how the characteristics of primate species (i.e. behavior, ecology, demographics, physiology, and biogeography) influence extinction risk.

2. To become familiar with the major threats to primates, as well as the organizations working to conserve them.

3. To garner the tools necessary to evaluate feasible conservation plans, incorporating information from past conservation successes and failures.

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**Course Format:** Lecture, Discussion, & Laboratory Exercises

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**Grading:**

**Exams (60% of total grade):**

**-Exam 1 (30% of grade): Tuesday March 5, 2013, in-class**

**-Exam 2 (30% of grade): Thursday May 2, 2013, in-class**

NOTE: NO FINAL EXAM WILL BE GIVEN DURING FINALS WEEK! Should you have a conflict with an exam date, you must notify the instructor within the first week of class. Make-up exams or rescheduling will only be allowed in extreme circumstances in accordance with university policies (see below).

**Homework (30% of total grade):** Four homework assignments will be given. These homework assignments involve write-ups of in-class laboratory group work. **Late homeworks will be penalized 10% for each day late**. I do not accept homework via email unless prior arrangements have been made. All assignments will require the use of a computer. The programs necessary can be downloaded for free on PCs or Macs running Windows, but they will also be made available at a computer lab on campus.

**Participation (10% of total grade):** A large part of this class (especially in the latter 2/3) will be in a 'seminar' format. Attendance and regular participation is required.

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**TOPICS COVERED IN THIS COURSE (Order may be modified):**

**PRIMATE BIOLOGY**

1. Introduction to Primate Conservation
2. Primate Taxonomy & Threat Status (C&D: Chpt 2).
3. A closer look at the IUCN Red List & Primate Census Techniques
4. Primate Population Biology (C&D: Chpt 6)
5. Extinction (C&D: Chpt 7)
6. Species Differences in Extinction Risk: Behavior (C&D: selections from Chpt 3).
7. Species Differences in Extinction Risk: Ecology. (C&D: selections from Chpt 4).
8. Forests without Primates? What we lose when we lose primates.
9. Identifying Conservation Targets I: Which Species possess the biological characteristics that are most likely to lead to extinction?(C&D: Chpt 5)
10. Population Viability Analysis I: Estimating population persistence with Vortex (C&D: Appendix 2) *(COMPUTER LAB; HOMEWORK I)*

**THREATS TO PRIMATE POPULATIONS**

11. Habitat Disturbance (Forestry/Mining/Development) (C&D: Chapter 8)
12. Subsistence Farming/Cattle Herding
13. Hunting/Bushmeat Trade (C& D: Chapter 9)
14. Disease –Which Diseases are the biggest threats? Sources of Disease, Population Impacts, & Available Treatments.
15. Human-Wildlife Conflicts
16. Indigenous Traditions
17. War & Political Unrest
18. Economic Constraints
19. Climate Change
20. Identifying Conservation Targets II: Identifying the most imminent threats (C&D: Chapter 10).
21. Population Viability Analysis II: Incorporating threats and environmental change in Vortex *(COMPUTER LAB; HOMEWORK II)*

**IMPLEMENTING CONSERVATION PLANS**

22. Who is responsible for conservation?
23. Partnerships: NGOs, Governments, AID Agencies, Scientists, Communities, Individuals (C&D: Appendix 3)
24. National & International Conservation Law: International Conventions, Regional Agreements, Determination of Compliance, Law Enforcement
25. What should we conserve? Getting to Know Species Selection II Software. *(COMPUTER LAB; HOMEWORK III)*
26. Protected Areas Management/Transfrontier Protected Areas (C&D: Chapter 11)
27. Managing unprotected populations
28. Community involvement/empowerment
29. Ecotourism: Is it really the answer?
30. Habitat Restoration
31. Sanctuaries, rehabilitation and release.
32. Ex-situ Conservation I: Role of Zoos & Genetic Banks
33. Population Viability Analysis III: Evaluating Potential Conservation Strategies *(COMPUTER LAB; HOMEWORK IV)*
34. Ex-situ Conservation II: Role of Education and the Media
35. Links between Ex-situ & In-Situ Conservation
36. Role of Scientists & Field Primatologists.
37. Who finances conservation plans?

## STATEMENT OF POLICIES

**PARTICIPATION:** As participation is a portion of your grade, it benefits you to be present in class regularly. Power-point slides from class will be made available via blackboard. However you are required to know all material **discussed** in class, not just the points on the power-point slides. In addition, attending class will help you to identify which portions of the readings will be incorporated in the exams.

**CREDIT/NO-CREDIT:** In order to pass you must be present at both exams.

**ADD/DROP/WITHDRAWAL:**
For appropriate deadlines, please see your academic advisor. Important dates can also be found at http://registrar.utexas.edu/calendars/12-13.

**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 BLACKBOARD:**
In this class I use Blackboard—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 Blackboard 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.