

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND ARCHAEOLOGY
University of Calgary
Spring 2024
PANAMA PRIMATOLOGY FIELD SCHOOL

Anthropology 553

Primate Behaviour Research Design: Research methods for the study of wild primate ecology and behaviour

Professor: Professor Mary Pavelka (pavelka@ucalgary.ca)

Course Description: This is a preparatory course in which students learn the theoretical and conceptual basics of data collection and research design in the classroom prior to going into the field. A field ecology and conservation component (based on guest instruction by a Belizean ecologist) provides local context with respect to how indigenous people have used the forest, as well as to how foreign researcher presence can affect local economies and societies. A literature assignment assesses students' ability to identify key components of research design, including hypotheses, predictions, variables and analyses.

Course Hours: H(3-0) Prerequisite(s): ANTH 311; one other senior level Primatology course recommended. MAY BE REPEATED FOR CREDIT

Learning Outcomes: At the end of ANTH 553, students will:

- be familiar, on a conceptual (as opposed to practical) level with data collection techniques as they pertain to naturalistic observations of wild neotropical monkeys and their forest habitats. This will form the basis of their practical work in the field (ANTH 552)
- understand at a detailed level the steps involved in building a solid research proposal
- be able to link the questions identified in the Introduction section of published research papers to the variables being measured and methods of data collection used to quantify those variables to the conclusions drawn
- understand at a deep level the reliability and validity of variables being measured
- be knowledgeable about neotropical primate species

Course Requirements/Evaluation:

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| 1. Literature Assignment 1 | 15% | early ITEC |
| 2. Literature Assignment 2 | 15% | later ITEC |
| 3. Research Methods Exam | 30% | Friday May 3 2-3:30 pm |
| 4. Class Engagement/Participant | 20% | May 1 – 3 on campus |
| 5. Ancon Hill and Biomuseum Exam | 20% | Friday May 24 5 pm Magnolia Inn Lounge |