**AHS 2105 Primatology**

**Course objectives:** The course aims at giving an overview of order primates. It will involve comparative anatomy and behavior within different groups.

**Course Description**

The comparative approach will help to elucidate the significance of physiological and behavioral systems as adaptive responses to various selective pressures throughout the course of evolution in order to identify components that have shaped primate evolution. The point of departure must be a systematic comparison between human and our closest living representatives, the almost 190 species of non human primates (prosimians, monkeys and apes). The course will deal with the description of physical characteristics that define the order primates, and will introduce some methods of comparing living primates through genetic data and their skeletons. Emphasis will be put on various behavioral features that characterize non-human primates. To facilitate students understanding, teaching aids will be employed such as documentaries, films, slides, diagrams and material objects in form of casts. This is a pertinent course for archaeology, zoology and B.Sc education majors.

**Assessment:** 30% Course Work; 70% Examination

**Course Outline**

Topic 1: The Order Primates and Primate Adaptations

* 1. Primates as mammals
  2. Characteristics of primates
  3. The arboreal adaptation
  4. Primate adaptation
  5. Habitats, diet, teeth, locomotion

Topic 2: The Early Primates

2.1 Fossil evidence

2.2 Taxonomy

2.3 Distribution

Topic 3: Extant Primates

3.1 Taxonomy and distribution

3.2 Chromosomes, proteins, and DNA

3.3 Reproduction and reproductive strategies

Topic 4: Primate Behaviour and Socio- ecology/Socio-biology

4.1 What is primate behaviour?

4.2 Evolutionary ecology: current constraints

4.3 Dominance

4.4 Communication

4.5 Aggressive and affiliative interactions

Topic 5: Primate Case Studies

5.1 Chimpanzee

5.2 Gorilla

5.3 Orangutan

5.4 Others

Topic 6: The Primate Continuum

6.1 Primates in biomedical research

6.2 Issues in primate conservation

6.3 Ethics and concerns in primate studies

**Basic readings**

Bramblett, C. A. 1994. *Patterns of primate Behaviour 2nd ed.*ProspectHeights: Waveland Press.

Goodall Jane. 1986. The Chimpanzee of Gombe. Cambridge: The Belknap Press

Fleagle, J1998. Primate Adaptation and evolution.New York; Academic Press.

Jolly, A. 1985. The evolution of primate behaviour, 2nded. New York; Macmillan.

Kano, T. 1992. The last Ape.Pygmy Chimpanzee Behaviour and Ecology.Standford: StandfordUniversity Press.

McGrew, W. C. 1992. Chimpanzee Material Culture.Cambridge: CambridgeUniversity Press

Napier, J. R. And Napier, P.H. 1985.the Natural history of Primates.Cambridge: MIT Press.

Quiatt, D and Vernon, R. 1993.*Primate Behaviour information, Social Knowledge and the Evolution of Culture.*Cambridge: CambridgeUniversity Press.

Smutts, B.B et al (eds). 1987. Primate societies. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.