

A Primatologist's Story: Patricia Wright's Journey
(Un)Common Read IDH2930
Section 0016 Class #228082

Fall 2024

INSTRUCTOR:

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CLASS MEETINGS:

Wednesdays, 5th and 6th periods (11:45 am – 1:40 pm), Aug. 28 – Oct. 16, Little 119

OFFICE HOURS:

Dr. Tennant’s Zoom office hours: by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND GOALS:

Dr. Patricia Wright is one of the world’s leading primatologists, having studied night monkeys in Peru and lemurs in Madagascar. Her unrelenting support of Madagascar and its natural environment led to the creation of Ranomafana National Park and the Centre Val Bio research station. Her story is an inspiring one – she was a practicing social worker in New York when her purchase of a pet monkey changed her life. She started graduate school in her 30s – after she had been to Peru and published on her research with no real affiliation to academia. Through her remarkable career, Dr. Wright overcame many of the same challenges as other non-traditional students, and as a single mother, she successfully combined research in the field with raising an adventuresome daughter. *High Moon Over the Amazon* tells this story of Dr. Wright’s transformation from housewife to world-renowned scientist, and her work on the owl monkeys of Peru. *For the Love of Lemurs* details her work in Madagascar, following her from her co-discovery of the golden bamboo lemur, through the creation of the national park and research station, and then her role in the IMAX film *Island of Lemurs*. Through our readings and discussion, we will explore Dr. Wright’s pathway to scientific preeminence and the evolution of her efforts to integrate conservation and human well-being.

This (Un)Common Read course is perfect for students with an interest in nature, primates, women in science, non-traditional paths to scientific success, exploration, discovery, and field research. Prior to some readings, the instructor will provide short introductions to the localities, wildlife, and people described in the readings, augmented by photographs (unique species, environment, habitat loss, the local people and cultural activities) from recent trips to Madagascar. One of the unique strengths of the class will be the instructor’s first-hand experiences and impressions from multiple trips to the country, as well as her personal interactions with Dr. Wright.

While Dr. Wright's books stand on their own as engaging and informational reads, this course also makes an excellent primer for the course BOT4935/ZOO4926: *Global Biodiversity and Culture: Integrating Conservation and Human Well-being* (part of UF's International Scholars Program).

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

- Aug. 28, Class 1, Introductions to each other; discussion on field work papers; discussion of resource papers; introduction to Peru

- Sept. 4, Class 2, Discussion of Chapter 1-5 of *High Moon over the Amazon*

DEADLINE – Monday, Sept. 9 – students choose presentation paper(s) from reading list

- Sept. 11, Class 3, Discussion of Chapter 6-12 of *High Moon over the Amazon*

DEADLINE – Monday, Sept. 16 – students have final project topic and format approved by Dr. Tennant

- Sept. 18, Class 4, Student presentations on selected readings

- Sept. 25, Class 5, introduction to Madagascar; discussion of chapters 1-5 of *For the Love of Lemurs*, pages 145-183 of *TY Mada*, chapter 5 of *8th Continent*

- Oct. 2, Class 6, Discussion of chapters 6-15 of *For the Love of Lemurs*

- Oct. 9, Class 7, Discussion of videos on Crystal Mountain (<https://vimeo.com/260817250>), *Island of Lemurs* (DVD on reserve at HSC Library), and Anthony Bourdain's *Parts Unknown* episode on Madagascar (the section on Pat Wright).

- Oct. 16, Class 8, Student final project presentations; discuss final thoughts on semester

GRADING:

Students (solely or in pairs) will present and lead discussion on a paper(s) from the course list; these papers are instructor-selected journal articles and other documents related to course content. Each presentation will be worth 100 points. Each student will also complete an individual final project, worth 130 points. This class project can be delivered as an academic poster, a personal reflection, or a creative endeavor related to our readings or a specific area of interest related to class content. All final projects will include a presentation to the class, and must be supported by academic citations (not websites). Meeting the deadlines for confirming your paper and final project choices are worth 5 points each.

Note that ppts (for paper presentation as well as final project presentation) must be uploaded to Canvas at least 24 hours prior to the presentation. Online submission closes at 11:45 am the day before presentation. Meeting these deadlines will be worth 5 pts each.

Class participation is essential for success in the (Un)Common Read. Students will therefore be evaluated on participation in classroom discussions, each class session worth up to 10 points. The following rubric will be used for grading:

0 points = unexcused absence.

3 point = present but does not contribute.

7 points = participates in discussion by adding an opinion, posing thoughtful questions, and answering questions.

10 points = makes exemplary contributions to discussion by integrating concepts, introducing novel perspectives, and drawing out contributions from classmates.

Your final grade will be based on the percentage of the total points earned as follows:

<u>Point Range (%)</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
90% and above	A
87%-89%	A-
83%-86%	B+
80%-82%	B
77%-79%	B-
73%-76%	C+
70%-72%	C
65%-69%	C-
55%-64%	D
54% and below	E

UF GRADING POLICIES:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>.

ATTENDANCE:

Requirements for class attendance, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/> . Attendance at and participation in class sessions are mandatory, with point totals described above.

It is understood that valid absences may occur. If you have a valid documented excuse and notify the instructor by email in advance, you will be able to make up missed class discussions through written means.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

High Moon over the Amazon: My Quest to Understand the Monkeys of the Night. Patricia Wright, 2014, Lantern Publishing, ISBN: **1590564804**

For the Love of Lemurs: My Life in the Wilds of Madagascar. Patricia Wright, 2016, Lantern Books, ISBN: **1590565479**

COURSE WEBSITE:

Course website: E-Learning (Canvas) website, <http://lss.at.ufl.edu>

The E-Learning (Canvas) website is where the class syllabus, handouts, notes and assignments will be posted, along with any announcements. This site is also where you will find basic course-related information. Please remember that you are responsible for all announcements made in lecture and/or posted on the course website for this class.

MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES FEES:

There are no materials and supplies fees assessed for this class.

STUDENT DEMEANOR:

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and to remain in class until the class has been dismissed. Students are expected to come to class prepared, having completed any required readings and performed any preparatory work that is assigned. While in class, students are expected to participate in class discussion, and to treat the other students and the instructor with respect and attention. While in class, students should not participate in texting, information seeking or viewing outside of that related to the course task at hand, talking on the phone, or other activities not related to classroom engagement and participation.

ONLINE COURSE EVALUATION PROCESS:

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/> . Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/> . Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results> .

UF HONESTY POLICY:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Click here to read the Conduct Code. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

IN-CLASS RECORDING POLICY:

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited.

Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services.

A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student6 Policy on Course Syllabi 3 UF, Academic Affairs, August 5th, 2021 Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL HELP:

Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352-294-2273 so that a team member can reach out to you.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, 352-392-1575
- UF Title IX: inform@titleix.ufl.edu, 352-273-3721
- University Police Department, 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support, <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>, 352-392-4357, Learning-support@ufl.edu
- Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>
- Student Complaints On-Campus: <https://www.sfa.ufl.edu/pub/StudentComplaintPolicy.pdf>
- UF Student Success: For improving study skills to connecting with a peer tutor, peer mentor, success coach, academic advisor, and wellness resources, go to <http://studentsuccess.ufl.edu>
- Honors Program, 201 Walker Hall, 352-392-1519
Quick questions for an Honors advisor? Email advisor@honors.ufl.edu
Need an Honors advising appointment? Schedule via Microsoft Bookings: <https://bit.ly/ufhonorsadvising>