

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE--(DSE) Primate Behavior

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical / Practice		
DSE - Primate Behavior	4	3	0	1	Class XII pass	NIL

Course Objectives

- To understand the behavior of non-human primates and its social structure to distinguish it from human
- To understand the non-human primate behaviour as a model for interpreting human behavioural evolution.

Learning Outcomes

- Understand the behavioral patterns of non-human primates as a model for understanding human behavior.
- Study behavioural evolution of living non-human primates.

Syllabus : **45 Hours**

Unit 1 : Fundamentals of Primatology **12 Hours**

Primate definition and characteristic features, Evolutionary History, Primate Radiation, Primate classification and Taxonomy, Ethno-primatology and the Anthropology of the Human-Primate Interface

Unit 2 : Social Structure and Organization of Primates **12 Hours**

Grouping, Kinship and Family among the non-human primate, Variations in Group Size, Territoriality, Aggression, Competition and resource defense, Inter and Intra-group competition and competitive exclusion foraging strategies.

Unit 3 : Primate Cognition and Communication **11 Hours**

Primate Cognition, language Communication patterns among the non-human primates: Visual, olfactory, vocal and tactile. Social context and function of primate communication primate communication as precursor to human communication, Cognitive abilities, tool use, Intelligence among primates

Unit 4 : Culture and Learning Among Primates

10 Hours

Mother-infant relationship and dynamics of evolution of culture among the primates Enculturation among the Non-human primates. Mechanisms of social learning, Cooperation and altruism, Primate culture as a precursor to human culture

Practical;

30 Hours

1. Prepare a field report on Primate behavior by collecting empirical data from the field area. It will include the following
2. Observation, collection and recording of primate behavioral data in a controlled and their natural set up.
3. Behavioral sampling using focal and scan methods
4. Interpret behavioral data in the context of social behavior, primate cognition and communication.
5. Write an analytical report based on the data collected

Core Readings

1. Seth, P.K. 2000. Behavioral Determinants of Rhesus Monkeys. In M K Bhasin Ed. *Studies on Man: Issues and Challenges*. Kamla Raj Publication P.1-21.
2. Glenn E. King. *Primate Behavior and Human Origins*, 2015, Routledge.
3. Warren G. Kinzey. *The Evolution of Human Behavior: Primate Models*. 1987, State University of New York Press

Suggested Readings

1. Fred Anapol, Rebecca Z. German, Nina G. Jablonski (Editors). *Shaping Primate Evolution: Form, Function, and Behavior* [1 ed.]. 2004, UK: Cambridge University Press
2. David A. Washburn, Duane M. Rumbaugh. *Primate Perspectives on Behavior and Cognition (Decade of Behavior)*. 2006, Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Examination and Assessment

Examination and assessment will be carried out as per the University of Delhi guidelines and notifications issued from time to time.