

EEB 503: Fundamental Concepts in Behavior

Professors: Stuart A. Altmann, James L. Gould, Daniel I. Rubenstein, Martin C. Wikelski

Spring quarter, yearly

Description/Objectives:

An advanced foundation in behavior, focusing on fundamental papers. Lectures and discussions. Topics include instinct, learning, social behavior, the physiology of behavior, ecological, adaptive and evolutionary aspects of behavior.

Reading List:

Fifty fundamental papers in animal behavior.

Requirements/Grading:

A required core course for graduate students in the department. Graded on the basis of contributions to discussions; usually taken on a P/F basis.

Schedule/Classroom Assignment: TBA

FRS 160: The Natural History of Food

Professor: Stuart A. Altmann

Spring 2003

Description/Objectives:

Throughout evolutionary history, food has been a major selective factor that has led to many of the primary adaptations in animals from every phylum. Food probably was a major selective force that led to the evolution of human upright posture, our opposable thumb, our color vision, and our intelligence. Food is more than a way of obtaining the nutrients needed for running the machinery of the body. It is also a major part of the economy of nations, a primary determinant of population growth, and a major source of social and cultural differences. Food has been the subject of literature and the object of wars. It pleases our senses and motivates much of our behavior.

This is a seminar course that looks at food from a diversity of perspectives: biological, chemical, physical, ecological, gustatory, literary, economic, political, cultural and demographic. This broad approach will be complemented by focus on several exemplary case studies.

Reading/Writing Assignments:

Visser, M. 1986. Much Depends on Dinner. N.Y., Grove, 351 pp., plus weekly readings from the primary literature.

The course includes lectures, discussions, readings, films, tastings, student presentations, and field trips. Participants will each bring to class two foods or food-related items to discuss. In addition, students will write weekly short reports and a term paper.

Requirements/Grading:

Written commentaries on weekly readings 30%

Participation in weekly discussions 30%

Contributed food samples (2), bibliography, discussion 20%

Term paper, summary, discussion 20%

Other requirements:

A freshman seminar. Enrollment decided on basis of written application form.

Schedule/Classroom Assignment: TBA