Primates: Our Closest Living Relatives

OSHER 516-001

Dates: Tuesdays, 3/25/14 – 5/7/14, no class 4/8
Times: 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM
Location: 3/25 class will be held at Tenth East Senior Center. Remaining classes will be held at Commander’s House, Fort Douglas
Instructor: Melissa Schaefer

Course Overview

This course will offer a survey of the diversity of nonhuman primates. The biology and behavior of major primate groups, including lemurs, lorises, New World monkeys, Old World monkeys, and apes will be explored. Several biological theories, e.g. evolutionary theory of natural selection, socio-ecological theory, and life history theory will be investigated as explanations for primate adaptations to specific social and physical environments. Humans are primates so gaining an understanding of nonhuman primates, our closest living relatives, can lead to a better understanding of ourselves.

Schedule of Topics

March 25: What is a Primate?
April 1: Primate Evolution, Biological Theories
April 8: No Class
April 15: Lemurs and Lorises
April 22: New World Monkeys
April 29: Old World Monkeys
May 6: Apes