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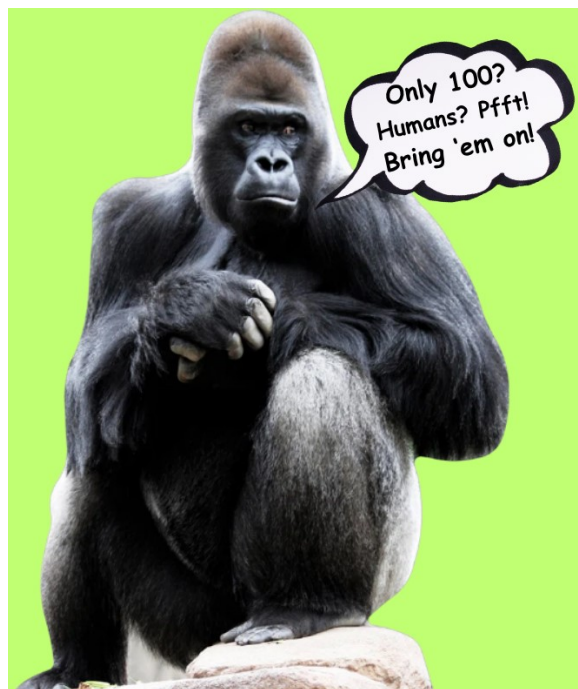
Instructor Bios



Diana Barber is Assistant Professor of Biology at West Liberty University, where she teaches Zoo Mammalogy, Zoo Science, Zoo Animal Behavior, Zoo Education, and Field Biology. She earned her B.A. in Psychology at Dartmouth College and her Ph.D in Biology at

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Jill Sampson is curator of Pittsburgh Zoo's International Conservation Center in Somerset, PA, where she oversees the animal programs, which include managing a breeding herd of African elephants. With over 30 years in the zoo field, Jill has worked with a variety of animal species and has extensive experience caring for elephants. She has participated in research projects studying elephants in human care as well as field research with wild elephants in Africa and Asia.



For more info about the People's Univ. *Large Mammals* please email the library at lunchwithbooks@yahoo.com, or call us at 304-232-0244.

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Zoology - Summer 2025



Ohio County Public Library

52-16th Street

Wheeling, WV 26003

For more info call 304-232-0244

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The People's University

ZOOLOGY

LARGE MAMMALS

They are among the largest animals on planet Earth. Some stand eighteen feet tall! Others have horns up to 5 feet in length! Some weigh more than a car and others can run as fast as one! These are the big mammals, and with the guidance of experts from the Pittsburgh Zoo and local colleges, you can take a deep dive into their incredible lives: from how they evolved, to their biology, behavior, ecology, and intelligence. And then you may join us for an exclusive, behind-the-scenes excursion to the Pittsburgh Zoo!

Thursdays at 7 PM in the Harold E. Vitalie Auditorium ~ Full Schedule:

July 31, 2025: Herbivores Part 1 -

Elephants

An overview of the largest land mammal on the planet, the African Elephant, including their evolution, biology, intelligence and behavioral psychology, plus ecosystem and status of endangerment in the wild.

Instructor: Jill Sampson, Curator, Pittsburgh Zoo's International Conservation Center

Aug. 7, 2025: Herbivores Part 2: Giraffes, Hippos, and Rhinos

The big plant eating land mammals are among the most diverse and unusual creatures on the planet: from the giraffe that can reach heights of 18 feet, hippos that can weigh as much as an auto-



mobile, and rhinos with horns up to 5 feet in length.

Instructor: TBA

Aug. 14, 2025: Carnivores - Bears, Wolves,

and Big Cats Lions, Tigers, & Bears, Oh My! Everybody knows these iconic charismatic predators. Or do they? Learn the truth behind the legends. Understand the threats they face and how you can help protect them for future generations.



Instructor: Diana Barber, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Zoo Science, West Lib. Univ.

Aug. 21, 2025: Primates - The Great Apes

These Apes Are Great! They kind of look like us, sometimes they even act like us. But they are definitely not humans. Explore the connections and differences between humans and our closest relatives.



Instructor: Diana Barber

Aug. 28, 2025 Pittsburgh ZOO Field Trip!

Join us at the Pittsburgh Zoo to experience "Animal Encounters," including a meeting with a primate keeper and special feedings. Go behind the scenes and learn about the personalities that make these animals

unique, see how they live, and how zoo staff cares for them.

Note: There is no admission charge, but you must **RSVP** for this activity (only 20 can go), and you must provide your own transportation to and from the Zoo. Call 304-232-0244 or send an email to lunchwithbooks@yahoo.com to register. To be fair, only those who attend all 4 of our regular classes will be eligible for this capstone event.

