



Module Descriptor

Title	Animal Behaviour		
Session	2024/25	Status	
Code	BIOL08027	SCQF Level	8
Credit Points	20	ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)	10
School	Health and Life Sciences		
Module Co-ordinator	Claire Branston		
Summary of Module			
<p>This module deals with a range of key concepts that are important in the study of animal behaviour.</p> <p>The module begins with providing background on the fundamental concepts in animal behaviour including natural selection, the influence of genetics on behaviour and the concept of the selfish gene. The course then builds on this background to cover important areas of study within the field and classes focus on orientation, navigation and migration, social groups, foraging behaviours, sexual strategies and communication.</p> <p>Practical work associated with the module is comprised of a mixture of lab based work, computer labs as well as written assignments. Students develop practical techniques as well as numeracy and writing skills that are a vital component of this field of biology.</p>			

Module Delivery Method	On-Campus¹	Hybrid²	Online³	Work -Based Learning⁴
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Campuses for Module Delivery	<input type="checkbox"/> Ayr <input type="checkbox"/> Dumfries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lanarkshire <input type="checkbox"/> London <input type="checkbox"/> Paisley	<input type="checkbox"/> Online / Distance Learning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)	

¹ Where contact hours are synchronous/ live and take place fully on campus. Campus-based learning is focused on providing an interactive learning experience supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

² The module includes a combination of synchronous/ live on-campus and online learning events. These will be supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus and online contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

³ Where all learning is solely delivered by web-based or internet-based technologies and the participants can engage in all learning activities through these means. All required contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

⁴ Learning activities where the main location for the learning experience is in the workplace. All required contact hours, whether online or on campus, will be clearly articulated to students

Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Term 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Term 3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Term 2 – Term 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Term 3 – Term 1	<input type="checkbox"/>

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Evaluate a range of concepts that describe how animals behave throughout their life.
L2	Evaluate a range of behavioural mechanisms by which animals adapt to their environment.
L3	Demonstrate skills required to conduct scientifically meaningful studies of animal behaviour.
L4	N/A
L5	N/A

Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills	
SCQF Headings	During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:
Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)	SCQF 8 Understanding of the key concepts involved in the study of animal behaviour (selfish gene, inclusive fitness, Evolutionary Stable Strategies, sexual selection, etc).
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	SCQF 8 Engage with practical investigation of animal behaviour in a range of situations to appreciate the challenges involved and how these may be dealt with in a conclusive manner.
Generic Cognitive skills	SCQF 8 Undertake critical analysis of lecture materials during consideration of online questions and analysis of practical investigations.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	SCQF 8 Work in groups to undertake practical investigations, appreciate the use of the Null hypothesis in statistical analysis of behavioural questions.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	SCQF 8 Solve problems in teams and on own initiative. Engage with a range of ethical issues associated with the ‘use’ of animals by mankind.

Prerequisites	Module Code	Module Title
	Other	
Co-requisites	Module Code	Module Title

Learning and Teaching
In line with current learning and teaching principles, a 20-credit module includes 200 learning hours, normally including a minimum of 36 contact hours and maximum of 48 contact hours.

Learning Activities	Student Learning Hours
During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	(Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture / Core Content Delivery	24
Laboratory / Practical Demonstration / Workshop	12
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	12
Independent Study	152
n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources
<p>The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:</p> <p>The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:</p> <p>Web-based handouts, lecture notes, practical support. See course on module VLE.</p> <p>Practical work: Animal behaviour practical schedules.</p> <p>Chris Barnard, 2003 Animal Behaviour: Mechanism, Development, Ecology and Evolution Paperback Prentice Hall, ISBN-10: 0130899364</p> <p>Peter Slater, 1999 Essentials of Animal Behaviour, Cambridge University Press, ISBN: 0521629969</p>
<p>(N.B. Although reading lists should include current publications, students are advised (particularly for material marked with an asterisk*) to wait until the start of session for confirmation of the most up-to-date material)</p>

Attendance and Engagement Requirements
<p>In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure, Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time.</p> <p>For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following:</p> <p>The university is committed to providing a supportive learning environment that actively facilitates student success. In this module, there is a high degree of student-led flexibility. You are academically engaged if you are regularly engaged with scheduled live sessions on-campus, including engaging with online learning activities in your own time, course-related learning resources, and with timely completion and submission of assessments.</p> <p>Whilst we understand that there may be times when conflicting priorities make participation challenging, for you to gain the most from this module it is recommended that you participate</p>

in all scheduled live classes and complete your self-directed learning activities in a timely manner.

It may be difficult to pass the assessment associated with this module if you are not regularly engaging with the module work and live classes. We may reach out to check how things are going and offer support if we observe that you have not been attending sessions or completing online activities.

Equality and Diversity

The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: [UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code](#).

In line with current legislation (Equality Act, 2010) and the UWS Equality, Diversity, and Human Rights Code, our modules are accessible and inclusive, with reasonable adjustment for different needs where appropriate. Module materials comply with University guidance on inclusive learning and teaching, and specialist assistive equipment, support provision and adjustment to assessment practice will be made in accordance with UWS policy and regulations. Where modules require practical and/or laboratory based learning or assessment required to meet accrediting body requirements the University will make reasonable adjustment such as adjustable height benches or assistance of a 'buddy' or helper.

(N.B. Every effort will be made by the University to accommodate any equality and diversity issues brought to the attention of the School)

Supplemental Information

Divisional Programme Board	Biological Sciences Health
Overall Assessment Results	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass / Fail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graded
Module Eligible for Compensation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If this module is eligible for compensation, there may be cases where compensation is not permitted due to programme accreditation requirements. Please check the associated programme specification for details.
School Assessment Board	Biology L7-11
Moderator	Richard Thacker
External Examiner	John Spicer
Accreditation Details	N/A
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Changes / Version Number	

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)

Assessment 1

Class test (written)

Assessment 2

Class test (written)

Assessment 3

Laboratory/Clinical/Field Notebook

(N.B. (i) Assessment Outcomes Grids for the module (one for each component) can be found below which clearly demonstrate how the learning outcomes of the module will be assessed.

(ii) An indicative schedule listing approximate times within the academic calendar when assessment is likely to feature will be provided within the Student Module Handbook.)

Component 1

Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
Class test (written)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	60	0

Component 2

Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
Class test (written)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14	12

Component 3

Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
Laboratory/Clinical/Field Notebook	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	26	14
Combined total for all components						100%	26 hours

Change Control

What	When	Who