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Title: ANIMAL COMMUNICATION
 Status: Definitive
 Code: **5217NATSCI** (122554)
 Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Biological and Environmental Sciences
 Teaching School/Faculty: Biological and Environmental Sciences

| Team | Leader |
|------------------------|--------|
| Jon Bielby | Y |
| Antje Engelhardt | |
| Claudia Mettke-Hofmann | |
| Nicola Koyama | |

Academic Level: FHEQ5 **Credit Value:** 20 **Total Delivered Hours:** 60

Total Learning Hours: 200 **Private Study:** 140

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

| Component | Contact Hours |
|-----------|---------------|
| Lecture | 35 |
| Off Site | 8 |
| Practical | 8 |
| Tutorial | 5 |
| Workshop | 4 |

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

| Category | Short Description | Description | Weighting (%) | Exam Duration |
|--------------|-------------------|--|---------------|---------------|
| Presentation | Pres | Presentation and discussion of a chosen study | 50 | |
| Essay | Essay | Essay on a topic related to animal communication | 50 | |

Aims

This module will provide background to the topic of animal communication, from its evolution and function, to its flexibility and adaptation to human dominated landscapes. The systems and modes of animal communication will be examined as will the wide range of communication across the animal kingdom.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Explain the relevance of anatomy and physiology of structures to animal communication.
- 2 Synthesise information about the evolution and function of communication, especially natural selective pressures on communication modes.
- 3 Recognise and discuss the function, use, flexibility, and consequences of communication modes across a range of animal taxa.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

| | | |
|--------------|---|---|
| Presentation | 2 | 1 |
| Essay | 2 | 3 |

Outline Syllabus

Definition and evolution of communication. Signal production and reception. Physiological bases and anatomical structures relevant to communication. Modes of communication: visual, acoustic, chemical. Deception and honesty in signalling. Behavioural ecology of communication. Animal communication in human dominated environments. Taxon based case studies.

Learning Activities

The module is delivered through a combination of lectures, practicals, fieldwork and workshops.

Notes

This module will explore the means through which animals communicate and what they are communicating to each other. Different systems and modes of communication will be explored via case studies focusing on different taxonomic groups.