

Animal Communication

Module Information

2022.01, Approved

Summary Information

Module Code	5217NATSCI
Formal Module Title	Animal Communication
Owning School	Biological and Environmental Sciences
Career	Undergraduate
Credits	20
Academic level	FHEQ Level 5
Grading Schema	40

Teaching Responsibility

LJMU Schools involved in Delivery
Biological and Environmental Sciences

Learning Methods

Learning Method Type	Hours
Lecture	30
Practical	6
Tutorial	5
Workshop	14

Module Offering(s)

Display Name	Location	Start Month	Duration Number Duration Unit
JAN-CTY	CTY	January	12 Weeks

Aims and Outcomes

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.
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After completing the module the student should be able to:

Learning Outcomes

Code	Number	Description
MLO1	1	Explain the relevance of anatomy and physiology of structures to animal communication.
MLO2	2	Synthesise information about the evolution and function of communication, especially natural selective pressures on communication modes.
MLO3	3	Recognise and discuss the function, use, flexibility, and consequences of communication modes across a range of animal taxa.

Module Content

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.
Module Overview	This module provides a 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, along with the wide range of communication across the animal kingdom. The module will explore how animal communication compares to human language, the means through which animals communicate and what they are communicating to each other.
Additional Information	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.

Assessments

Assignment Category	Assessment Name	Weight	Exam/Test Length (hours)	Module Learning Outcome Mapping
Presentation	Presentation	50	0	MLO2, MLO1
Essay	Essay	40	0	MLO2, MLO3
Portfolio	Tutorial portfolio	10	0	MLO2, MLO3

Module Contacts

Module Leader

Contact Name	Applies to all offerings	Offerings
Jon Bielby	Yes	N/A

Partner Module Team

Contact Name	Applies to all offerings	Offerings
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