

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: PRIMATE SOCIAL SYSTEMS
Status: Definitive
Code: **6009NATSCI** (101274)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2014

Owning School/Faculty: Natural Sciences & Psychology
Teaching School/Faculty: Natural Sciences & Psychology

Team	Leader
Emily Bethell	Y
Serge Wich	
Filippo Aureli	
Nicola Koyama	

Academic Level: FHEQ6 **Credit Value:** 24.00 **Total Delivered Hours:** 48.00

Total Learning Hours: 240 **Private Study:** 192

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	12.000
Off Site	12.000
Seminar	2.000
Workshop	22.000

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Report	FLDWRK RPT	Coursework: Report of the development of the research question and study design for the zoo fieldwork	30.0	
Essay	ESSAY	Coursework: In-class timed essay on a question relating to the core text on primate social behaviour	40.0	
Presentation	SEMINAR	Coursework: Students present the results of their behavioural	30.0	

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
		studies conducted at the zoo at a student conference. There is a prize for the best talk.		

Aims

To apply aspects of evolution and ecology to the interpretation of non-human primate social behaviour and social systems.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Discuss and critically evaluate the role of evolutionary, ecological, biological and developmental processes underlying primate social systems and primate behaviour.
- 2 Compare and contrast the types of social relationships across different social systems
- 3 Critically evaluate studies of primate behaviour.
- 4 Utilise the skill of academic presentation skills to communicate the result of a primate behaviour study.
- 5 Plan and execute a primate behaviour study.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

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

RESEARCH REPORT	2	5	
ESSAY	1	2	3
SEMINAR PRESENTATION	2	3	4

Outline Syllabus

Overview of the ecological and evolutionary processes affecting primate social behaviour.

Primate social cognition: its unique characteristics, and implications for the evolution of human social behaviour and cognition.

Social organisation: spatial distribution, group composition, interactions and social relationships, mating and social systems.

Survival, foraging and reproductive strategies.

The concept of kinship and dispersal patterns and how they influence social relationships.

Sex and age differences in social behaviour.

Communication, competition, mating patterns, friendly behaviour and conflict resolution.

The design, execution and interpretation of behavioural studies.

Learning Activities

A combination of lectures, journal club discussion groups, workshops and fieldwork. There is a high degree of in-class discussion with teaching staff and feedback.

References

Course Material	Book
Author	Strier, K.B.
Publishing Year	2003
Title	Primate Behavioural Ecology
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Allyn & Bacon
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Campbell, C.J. et al.
Publishing Year	2007
Title	Primates in Perspective
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Oxford University Press
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Mitani et al
Publishing Year	2012
Title	The Evolution of primate Social Systems
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Chicago
ISBN	

Course Material	Journal / Article
Author	Dunbar, R.I.M.
Publishing Year	2009
Title	The social brain hypothesis and its implications for social evolution
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Annals of Human Biology
ISBN	

Notes

This module provides a comprehensive course in non-human primate social behaviour focusing on survival and reproductive strategies, social organisation and mechanisms of behaviour. Particular emphasis is placed on interpretation and discussion of journal articles relating to topics covered on the course.