Liverpool John Moores University

Title: ANIMAL LEARNING & COGNITION
Status: Definitive but changes made
Code: **6010NATSCI**   (101278)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2019

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

Team	Leader
Claudia Mettke-Hofmann	Y
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Academic Level:	FHEQ6	**Credit Value:**	24	**Total Delivered Hours:**	45
Total Learning Hours:	240	**Private Study:**	195		

Delivery Options
Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	22
Practical	4
Seminar	6
Workshop	13

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Report	Prt rpt	Practical schedule	50	
Presentation	Seminar	Group assignment and seminar presentation	50	

Aims

1) to integrate behaviour, physiology and animal psychology in the study of animal learning and cognition
2) to interpret animal learning from an ecological and evolutionary perspective

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

1   critically discuss behavioural, physiological and genetic processes involved in animal learning and cognition.
2   explain differences in animal learning between species within the wider context of the ecology and evolution
3   utilise skills in experimental design, execution, analysis and interpretation in relation to animal learning
4   critically analyse and discuss published experimental work on animal learning and integrate these with general concepts in learning theory

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

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

Practical	1	3	
Group project and seminar	2	3	4

Outline Syllabus

Introduction to the ecological and evolutionary role of animal learning and cognition. Recap on associative learning (classical and operant conditioning) and development of learning paradigms (complex associations, constraints and biases). Discrimination and classification. Different types of spatial and social learning. Theory of mind and intelligence. Insight learning. Personality traits and cognition. The physiological basis of learning. Neurophysiology and genetics.

Learning Activities

The module comprises a series of lecture, workshops & practicals supported by web-based material and assignments.

Notes

This module investigates learning and cognition in animals and interprets this knowledge in the context of the ecology and evolution of this behaviour. The module is divided into two components. Component 1 integrates the behaviour and physiology of learning and cognition with general learning theory. Component 2 comprises a series of specialised seminars and workshops on animal learning and cognition.