

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: ANIMAL SOCIAL SYSTEMS
Status: Definitive but changes made
Code: **6026NATSCI** (120893)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2019

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

Team	Leader
Adam Reddon	Y
Antje Engelhardt	
Alexander Piel	
Will Swaney	
Hazel Nichols	
Serge Wich	
Emily Bethell	
Claudia Mettke-Hofmann	

Academic **Credit** **Total**
Level: FHEQ6 **Value:** 24 **Delivered** 44
Hours:

Total **Private**
Learning 240 **Study:** 196
Hours:

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	10
Off Site	12
Seminar	2
Workshop	20

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Presentation	Pres	Presentation oral or poster	50	
Essay	Essay	Essay	50	

Aims

To apply aspects of evolution and ecology to the interpretation of animal social behaviour and social systems.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Discuss the role of evolutionary, ecological, biological and developmental processes in animal social systems and behaviour
- 2 Critically analyse journal articles and studies of animal social behaviour
- 3 Contrast the types of social relationships across different social systems
- 4 Communicate the results of an animal social behaviour study
- 5 Plan and execute an animal behaviour study

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

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

Presentation oral or poster	2	3	4	5
Essay	1	2	3	

Outline Syllabus

A range of areas of animal social systems reflecting current staff research interests. Including:

Overview of the ecological and evolutionary processes affecting animal social behaviour. The design and interpretation of studies of animal social behavior. The concept of kinship and dispersal patterns and how they influence social relationships. Social organisation: spatial distribution, group composition, interactions and social relationships, mating and social systems. Sex and age differences in social behaviour. Communication, competition, mating patterns, cooperation and conflict resolution.

Learning Activities

A combination of lectures, journal club discussion groups, workshops and fieldwork

Notes

This module provides a comprehensive course in animal 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 including review papers and empirical studies.