

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: CURRENT TOPICS IN ZOOLOGY
Status: Definitive
Code: **6207NATSCI** (122190)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

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

Team	Leader
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Academic Level: FHEQ6 **Credit Value:** 20 **Total Delivered Hours:** 50
Total Learning Hours: 200 **Private Study:** 150

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 1

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	18
Online	4
Practical	12
Workshop	16

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Report	report	this experimental design assessment allows students to develop creative problem solving skills; it also has an associated continuous assessment component	50	

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
		designed to promote critical evaluation and communication skills in a group environment.		
Essay	essay	this assignment involves writing a fully referenced essay on a choice of topic, from 3 of the topics covered in research seminar style lectures	50	

Aims

This course aims to build on the physiological concepts taught in the level 5 module Comparative Animal Physiology, and to introduce new concepts and skills appropriate to level 6. The module is designed to be research-led, and will focus on topics closely linked to the research interests and expertise of the teaching team.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Independently design experimental protocols, and critically evaluate and appreciate the limitations of scientific methods from the literature
- 2 Communicate effectively in a group environment to develop problem solving skills.
- 3 Critically evaluate recently published scientific literature, and integrate and evaluate information from different sources
- 4 Apply ethics and risk assessment training to evaluate laboratory activities

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

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

experimental design report	1	2	3	4
coursework essay	1	3		

Outline Syllabus

The module will focus on developing graduate skills in areas of zoology research closely linked to the research interests of the teaching team. Lecture will be delivered mainly in the format of research seminars; workshops will be used to deliver problem-based learning and training in experimental design and practical laboratory techniques. Science communication skills will be developed during group discussions including the use of online platforms. Topics to be covered may include animal behaviour, pharmacology, physiology, and genetics, though topics may be updated to reflect current trends in zoology research within NSP and within the wider academic community.

Learning Activities

The course will have 18 hours of lectures, delivered mainly in a research-seminar format, focusing on current areas of zoology research. The 16 hours of workshops and 4 hours of online activities

will include directed online activities to support the lecture material, journal club discussions evaluating scientific papers, and experimental design activities and discussions. The 12 hours of practical activities will usually include both laboratory based practical classes, and also computer practicals in areas such as molecular modelling or bioinformatics which are an increasingly important employability skill for many bioscience graduates.

Notes

The course will teach various key graduate skills, including practical skills, communication skills, problem-solving skills, and critical evaluation. The taught content will include aspects of zoology relevant to the research expertise of the teaching team, which may include pharmacology/neurobiology, animal behaviour, and utilising model organisms.