Liverpool John Moores University

Warning: An incomplete or missing proforma may have resulted from system verification processing

Title:	ANIMAL LEARNING AND COGNITION
Status:	Definitive
Code:	**6208NATSCI** (122555)
Version Start Date:	01-08-2021
Owning School/Faculty:	Biological and Environmental Sciences
Teaching School/Faculty:	Biological and Environmental Sciences

Team	Leader
Susanne Zajitschek	Y
Rodrigo De Marco	
Will Swaney	
Emily Bethell	
Claudia Mettke-Hofmann	

Academic Level:	FHEQ6	**Credit Value:**	20	**Total Delivered Hours:**	51
Total Learning Hours:	200	**Private Study:**	149		

Delivery Options
Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	18
Practical	8
Seminar	6
Workshop	19

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Report	report	practical report	50	
Presentation	pres	group 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	compare differences in animal learning between species within the wider context of the ecology and evolution
3	demonstrate skills in experimental design, execution, analysis and interpretation in relation to animal learning
4	critically assess published experimental work on animal learning and cognition and interpret the studies in the context of general concepts in learning and cognition

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

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

practical report	1	3
group presentation	2	4

Outline Syllabus

Evolution and genetics of animal learning. The neurophysiological basis of learning. Different types of spatial and social learning. Evolution of memory under different ecological conditions. Complex associations, constraints and biases. Discrimination and classification. Theory of mind and social cognition. Insight learning. Personality traits and cognition.

Learning Activities

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

Notes

This module investigates learning and cognition in animals and links these abilities to the ecological and social environment of an individual and species. Animal learning and cognition is discussed with respect to current (proximate factors) and evolutionary conditions (ultimate factors).