

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: ANIMAL SOCIAL SYSTEMS
Status: Definitive
Code: **6220NATSCI** (126584)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

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

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

Academic Level: FHEQ6 **Credit Value:** 20 **Total Delivered Hours:** 44

Total Learning Hours: 200 **Private Study:** 156

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	16
Workshop	28

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 Develop competency in scientific writing and literature review
- 5 Develop oral presentation skill

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

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

Presentation oral or poster	2	5			
Essay	1	2	3	4	

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 behaviour.

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 student presentations

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.