General Information

Module Code

BIO-5010B

Academic Year

2021/2

Module Title

BEHAVIOURAL ECOLOGY

Module type

WW

Semester / Term

SEM2

Level

5

Credit Value

20

Scheme

UG

Related Modules:

Pre-requisite

BIO-4002B

Co-requisite

Forbidden

Timetable slot

-

Is this module suitable for inbound study abroad students?

Y

Additional costs

Maximum number of students

999

Module Organiser

Professor Matthew Gage

Module Description

What is this module about?

We will explore how evolution and ecology shape animal behaviour, examining how important traits have evolved to maximise survival and reproduction in the natural environment. Darwinian principles provide the theoretical framework, and we will explore key concepts of selfishness, altruism, conflict, survival, optimality, reproduction, parental care and death.

Relevant research will be used to lead our understanding of the ultimate function of key traits. In parallel with the lectures, students design, conduct, analyse and present their own research project, working in a group to collect original data in order to answer a question about the adaptive significance of behaviour.

Learning objectives and Outcomes

What are the Learning objectives?

To understand how evolution and ecology shape animal behaviour through an individual's life history from birth to death.

To understand how to set evolutionary questions, and to consider research approaches to answering them.

To understand how to read and appraise the primary scientific literature.

To gain transferable skills in project design, team-work, statistical analysis, report preparation, and public speaking.

What are the Learning Outcomes?

Name	Details
1	
	Fundamental knowledge and understanding
	Understand why organisms behave and operate as they do using an evolutionary perspective.
2	
	Fundamental knowledge and understanding
	Understand the role of genes and the environment in shaping behaviour
3	
	Creative thinking
	Understand how to formulate research questions and design approaches to testing them
4	

Primary literature searching and critical appraisal
Search, locate, understand and critically analyse information from the primary scientific literature

5
Practical teamwork and original research
Design behavioural research experiments, work as a team, systematically collect original data, statistically analyse results, and report, interpret and communicate findings in a group

Learning activities and Effort hours

Learning activity	Total effort hours	Indicative effort hours per week
1. Class sessions (Lectures, workshops, lab sessions, seminars etc.)	50	5
2. Pre-class preparation and follow up study	20	2
3. Work-based or Placement Hours	0	0
4. Formative assessments/ activities	3	.5
5. Feedback/ Feed forward sessions	5	.5
6. Summative assessments (essays, dissertations, oral presentations, worksheets, lab reports etc.)	10	1
7. Background reading	10	1
8. Exams/ OSCEs	3	0
9. Course Tests	0	0
10. Tutorials (Individual or small groups)	0	0
Total Hours =	101.00	10.00

Learning Support Materials

Should this module be exempt from requiring an online reading list?
N

Link to Talis (https://uea.rl.talis.com/index.html)

Formative Assessments

Sequence	Assessment Type	Title	Deadline
FM1	Formative Assessment	Group Project proposal	

Summative Assessments

Sequence	Assessment Type	Title	Deadline	Weighting	Method of submission	Method of return	Return date	Format and purpose of feedback
001	Presentation	Group Presentation		10 /		VIA MODULE		
Further Details								
002	Written Assignment	Research Project (1500 words)		30 /		VIA HUB		
Further Details								
003	Exam Standard	Examination		60 /				
Further Details								

Attribute Development

On this module students will develop knowledge, insights and attributes that are readily transferable into future or current work settings. The attributes are articulated below to help understand how the module will help students to thrive on their course and prepare them for the world of work. These attributes are also articulated within the UEA

Award.

Academic excellence

☑ In-depth and extensive knowledge, understanding and skills in chosen discipline(s)

☑ The ability to collect, collate, analyse and critically engage with a wide range of information sources, and evidence

☑ The ability to analyse and critically engage with a wide range of concepts and ideas

Critical thinking & problem solving

☑ A capacity for independent, conceptual and creative thinking

☑ A capacity for informed argument and logical reasoning

☑ A capacity for problem identification and problem-solving

Learning & personal development

☑ A commitment to developing professional values, self-insight and capabilities

☑ The ability to respond positively to constructive criticism and feedback from peers, tutors and colleagues

☑ Self-confidence and an ability to exercise own 'voice'

Digital literacy and IT

☑ Confidently employ a range of digital technologies for academic and professional/ career development purposes

☑ Use appropriate digital technologies and resources to locate diverse types of information for both academic and non-academic purposes

☑ The ability to critically evaluate and engage with the information obtained

Self-management & professionalism

☑ A capacity for taking responsibilities and ownership of actions

☑ An ability to manage time effectively, including setting priorities, juggling competing demands and meeting deadlines

☑ An understanding of work cultures and practices, including work place professionalism

Team working and leadership

☑ An ability to co-operate and collaborate with others, including working to shared aims

☑ An ability to take other viewpoints, have empathy for other people's position and give constructive feedback

☑ An ability to motivate and lead others, including taking the initiative and delegating when required

Communication

☑ An ability to communicate in written form for different purposes, audiences and contexts

☑ An ability to communicate in person for different purposes, audiences and contexts

☑ An ability to network effectively with others for specific purposes

Applied numeracy and Technical proficiency

☑ An ability to perform routine calculations in daily tasks and in applied contexts

☑ An ability to analyse and interpret data and evidence

☑ Proficiency in skilled techniques used for academic and professional purposes

Career management

☑ A capacity to reflect on and articulate qualities, strengths and attributes

☐ The ability to research specific job and career areas

☑ An ability to present your experience and attributes positively to graduate employers

Commercial awareness

☐ A knowledge of the link between academic subjects and their commercial applications

☐ An understanding of business priorities and the needs of graduate employers

☐ The ability to understand and prioritise customer needs

Innovation and enterprise

☐ The confidence to introduce and establish something new

☐ The potential to take an idea through to its practical application

☐ The potential to apply an enterprising mind-set to situations

Citizenship and stewardship

☐ An understanding of your place within local and global communities

☐ An awareness of the need to manage shared and finite resources, including an appreciation of moral and ethical dimensions

☐ An ability to improve the lives of others and lobby for positive change through community and/or political engagement