



Faculty of Science

## BIOF08, Biology: Animal Behaviour, 15 credits

*Biologi: Djurens beteende, 15 högskolepoäng*

First Cycle / Grundnivå

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### Details of approval

The syllabus is an old version, approved by Study programmes board, Faculty of Science on 2015-12-15 and was valid from 2016-01-01, spring semester 2016.

### General Information

The course is part of the main field of Biology at the Faculty of Science. The course is an optional first-cycle course for a degree of Bachelor in Biology. The course is also offered as a single subject course. The language of instruction is English.

*Main field of studies*

Biology

*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

G2F, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

### Learning outcomes

knowledge and skills:

#### Knowledge and understanding

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to:

- ? explain basic concepts in ethology
- ? account for how behaviours are influenced by factors at the morphological and physiological level
- ? account for how evolution has influenced and shaped animals' behaviour
- ? give examples of common methods in ethology and behavioural ecology, and decide which of these are best suited for collection and analysis of data in various types of behavioural studies
- ? be familiar and give examples of rules and permissions required for animal husbandry and animal experiments

### **Competence and skills**

On completion of the course, the student shall be able to:

- ? plan and carry out simple behavioural studies
- ? through scientific method analyse a behavioural issue based on the scientific process, and based on this formulate hypotheses and design experiments and field surveys
- ? compile and evaluate results from simple behavioural studies
- ? present results of behavioural studies orally and in writing and give feedback on others' studies

### **Judgement and approach**

On completion of the course, the student shall be able to:

- ? interpret and evaluate scientific information in scientific behavioural studies
- ? discuss and compare various types of explanations to results of scientific behavioural studies
- ? discuss ethical and legal aspects of animal husbandry and animal experiments

### **Course content**

The course starts with an overview of animal behaviour from a proximate, classical ethological perspective, including e.g. a. development, neurology and hormonal control. Other issues discussed are animal welfare, ethics of laboratory animal experiments, and ethology of domestic animals.

The general focus of the course is on behaviour from an evolutionary point of view. Examples are e.g. adaptations to avoid predation, evolution of behaviours associated with foraging and reproduction, mating systems, social behaviours and communication.

The course book is discussed at seminars. The lectures usually follow the content in the book but are also supplemented by topics such as animals' cognition and personalities. Several field trips and study visits are included in the course, as well as demonstrations in different research teams to learn how data are collected in ongoing behavioural studies.

The course is completed with a two weeks project in groups. The assignment is to carry out a simple behavioural study and then compile the results in a written report. Finally, oral presentations of the work are carried out, where the participants should receive and give feedback to the fellow students.

### **Course design**

The teaching consists of lectures, literature seminars, exercises, demonstrations, field trips, project, and written and oral presentations. All seminars, exercises, group assignments, demonstrations, field trips and presentations, and certain lectures are

compulsory.

## **Assessment**

Examination is implemented in writing in the form of an examination that is the basis for the final grade. To pass the course, passing all compulsory components is required. For students who have not passed the regular examination, an additional examination in close connection to this is offered.

## **Grades**

Marking scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction.

To pass the course, the student should have passed the examination and carried out all compulsory components in the course with approved result. The final grade is decided through a weighing of the results of the parts that are included in the examination.

## **Entry requirements**

For admission to the course, 90 credits of Science studies are required, including courses corresponding to BIOC02 Ecology 15 credits, and BIOB02 Zoology 12 credits, or Environmental Law 15 hp. English 6.

## **Further information**

The course may not be included in a degree together with BIOR71 Ethology and Behavioural Ecology 15 credits.