



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

**KOGP13, Cognitive Science: Animal Cognition - Cognition  
from an Evolutionary and Comparative Perspective, 7.5 credits**  
*Kognitionsvetenskap: Djurkognition - tänkande ur evolutionära och  
jämförande perspektiv, 7,5 högskolepoäng*  
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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### Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the programmes director by delegation from the pro-dean for first- and second-cycle studies on 2013-11-07 to be valid from 2013-11-07, spring semester 2014.

### General Information

The course is a compulsory component of the MA programme in Cognitive Science (HAKOG) and is also offered as a free-standing course.

*Language of instruction:* English and Swedish  
Or English

*Main field of studies*

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*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

### Learning outcomes

On completion of the course the student shall

#### Knowledge and understanding

- be able to describe methods in the study of animal cognition, including both current research and historical examples
- be able to account for the role of evolution in explanations of cognitive phenomena.

### **Competence and skills**

- be able to use the applicable methods in research on animal cognition, e.g. ethological observation and controlled behavioural experiments
- be able to account for key issues and findings of studies of animal cognition in speech and writing
- be able to critically reflect on the choice of methods and interpretations in studies of animal cognition.

### **Judgement and approach**

- be able to argue for the value of research on animal cognition
- be able to assess the potential and limitations of different methods for research on animal cognition.

### **Course content**

The course introduces important aspects of the study of cognition, namely knowledge and research of species other than humans, such as primates and corvids. The potential interpretative fallacies associated with comparisons of different species are also addressed.

An understanding of evolution and evolutionary processes is fundamental to the study of animal cognition so the course deals with basic evolutionary approaches to cognition. Furthermore, the ecological and biological factors that cause evolutionary and individual cognitive abilities are addressed. The course also includes discussions of the knowledge to be gained from comparisons of the cognition of different species.

### **Course design**

Teaching consists of field assignments, lectures and seminars.

### **Assessment**

The assessment is based on 2-3 written assignments.

*Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.*

### **Grades**

Marking scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction.

### **Entry requirements**

To be admitted to the course students must have 90 credits in one of the subjects Anthropology, General Linguistics, Computer Science, Informatics, Neuroscience, Biology, Engineering Mathematics, Psychology, Education or Theoretical Philosophy. Studies in cognitive research or cognitive science corresponding to 90 credits from Lund University or another higher education institution also qualify students for

admission to the course.

### **Further information**

1. The course is offered at the Department of Philosophy, Lund University.
2. The credits allocated for course content that in whole or in part is commensurate with another course can only be credited once for a degree.

Subcourses in KOGP13, Cognitive Science: Animal Cognition - Cognition  
from an Evolutionary and Comparative Perspective

Applies from H13

1301 Animal Cognition - Cognition from an Evolu and Comp Persp, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction