



Module Specification

Animal Behaviour for Wildlife Conservation

Version: 2023-24, v2.0, 06 Feb 2023

Contents

Module Specification	1
Part 1: Information	2
Part 2: Description	2
Part 3: Teaching and learning methods	3
Part 4: Assessment.....	5
Part 5: Contributes towards	7

Part 1: Information

Module title: Animal Behaviour for Wildlife Conservation

Module code: USSKAJ-15-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

Faculty: Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

Department: HAS Dept of Applied Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Applied Sciences

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: Wildlife Biology 2023-24

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Pre-requisites: students must have taken USSKAE-30-1 Wildlife Biology, or equivalent.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: See Learning Outcomes

Outline syllabus: This module introduces key concepts underpinning the discipline of Animal Behaviour.

Historical Development – contributions of Lorenz, Tinbergen, von Frisch and others – the distinction between ethology and comparative psychology.

Inherited versus Learnt Behaviour – experimental approaches used to study the causes and function of behaviour, its ontogeny and evolution – genetics of inherited behaviour – molecular approaches.

Communication – chemical signals and pheromones – visual and auditory signals – tactile communication – electrical signalling.

Biological Rhythms – circadian and circannual rhythms – their origin, control and function

Orientation and Navigation – mechanisms of homing and migration.

Behavioural Ecology – habitat selection – cost benefit approaches – optimal foraging theory – sexual selection – social behaviour – altruistic behaviour and kin selection.

Human activity impacts' on animal behaviour – through disruption of social networks through habitat destruction or development; effects of disturbance, altered behaviours of captive animals.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Scheduled learning

Students can expect to receive a minimum of 44 hours taught material. This will be delivered as online interactive lectures and lectorials, workshops, guest lectures, and field practicals.

Independent learning

Students are expected to spend 106 hours on independent learning tasks and preparation of assessments.

The syllabus is delivered primarily through online PowerPoint lectures using a wide range of examples to illustrate key principles. Wherever possible, lectures are supplemented by audio-visual material (videos, DVDs) showing specific examples of animal behaviour. The lectures would be supported by online practical work observing and recording the behaviour of wild, domesticated or captive animals – with particular emphasis of animals held in Bristol Zoo.

Scheduled learning includes interactive lectures, workshop and supervised fieldwork delivered online and some face to face.

Independent learning includes hours engaged with essential reading, case study preparation, assignment preparation and completion etc.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Demonstrate a sound understanding of how Animal Behaviour has developed as a discipline

MO2 Discuss the common underlining principles that determine animal behaviour

MO3 Define the principles of behavioural ecology and discuss their importance for survival in the wild

MO4 Design, undertake, analyse, report on and review a behavioural study of a named animal

MO5 Review of the impact of human activity on animal behaviour and discuss how conservation practices can mitigate its effects

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 106 hours

Face-to-face learning = 44 hours

Total = 150

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/usskaj-15-2.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/usskaj-15-2.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The Assessment Strategy has been designed to support and enhance the development of both subject-based and employability skills, whilst ensuring that the module's Learning Outcomes are attained, as described below. Assessments are designed to underpin students' learning and skills acquisition in the module and to provide for learning beyond the material delivered in the classroom.

Assessments include both summative (assessment that contributes to module mark) and formative (assessment that does not contribute to module mark) assessment and feedback opportunities.

Assessment Task 1 comprises an online examination over a 24 hour period, anticipated to take 2-hours to complete, which takes place at the end of the year. The assignment is designed to test both the breadth of the students' subject and their understanding of key concepts. This task will test learning outcomes 1, 2, 3 and 5.

The Coursework task of the assessment (Assessment Task 2) is a practical report of animal behaviour observation (50% of module marks). This will test learning outcome 4.

Opportunities for formative assessment are embedded in the module teaching and take a variety of forms, including: in class and on-line tests and quizzes, problem-solving workshops, and model answers for past exam questions.

Assessment criteria will be made available to the students in the module guide at the start of the module. All work is marked using the Department's Generic Assessment Criteria, which in turn has been developed with reference to a range of external

reference points, including the QAA Code of Practice on Assessment of Students, UWE's Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy, and UWE's E-learning policy.

Assessment tasks:

Online Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Online examination (24 hours)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO5

Report (First Sit)

Description: Practical Report (3000 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO4

Online Assignment (Resit)

Description: Online examination (24 hours)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO5

Report (Resit)

Description: Practical Report (3000 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Integrated Wildlife Conservation [Zoo] FdSc 2022-23