University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Animal Behaviour, PG_00154755		
Field of study	Biology		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2024	Academic year of realisation of subject	2025/2026
Education level	postgraduate studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Optional subject group
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	2	Language of instruction	English
Semester of study	3	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	
Conducting unit	Pracownia Ekologii i Etologii Kręgowców -> Katedra Ekologii i Zoologii Kręgowców -> Faculty of Biology		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	prof. dr hab. Katarzyna Wojczulanis-Jakubas	
	Teachers	prof. dr hab. Katarzyna Wojczulanis-Jakubas	

Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						

Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	15	2.0	33.0	50

Subject objectives	• Students gain an updated knowledge on animal behaviour • Students understand mechanisms driving various animal behaviours • Students familiarizes themselves with research methodology in animal behaviour • Students develop awarness of significance of the knowledge on animal behaviour

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[BIOLMU2_U06] the graduate is able to use the acquired expertise in the biological sciences to interpret the collected empirical data and to make inferences	The student is able to pose a research question on animal behavior, plan a suitable experiment/observation and propose appropriate methods and then verify the achieved results.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SU3] text preparation/written work [SU5] implementation of a problem task
[BIOLMU2_W04] the graduate has an in-depth knowledge of the chosen specialisation in the biological sciences	The student is familiar with various animal behaviors, is able to correctly interpret them in the context of evolution and environmental impacts, and uses appropriate terminology.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SW3] text preparation/written work
[BIOLMU2_W08] the graduate is familiar with the wealth of contemporary experimental approaches and techniques in the biological sciences and their use to solve the tasks at hand	The student is familiar with various methods of studying animal behavior from the classical to modern ones (including using AI).	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SW3] text preparation/written work
[BIOLMU2_U07] the graduate is able to critically confront biological information from a variety of sources and, on this basis, draw valid conclusions	The student is able to correctly interpret animal behavior in the context of its evolution and environmental impact.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SU3] text preparation/written work
[BIOLMU2_K05] the graduate is prepared to use recognised sources of scientific and popular information in the biological sciences to further his or her knowledge	The student is able to answer a question about animal behavior by reaching for the relevant professional literature. The student verifies popular science inforamation based on scientific literature.	[SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SK3] text preparation/written work [SK5] implementation of a problem task
[BIOLMU2_K01] the graduate is ready for initiative and independence of action and feels the need for lifelong learning	The student is able to pose an appropriate question about animal behavior and look for the answer to this question in the contemporary literature.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SK3] text preparation/written work [SK5] implementation of a problem task
[BIOLMU2_W01] the graduate knows and understands natural phenomena and processes at different levels of complexity	The student correctly interprets animal behavior in the context of the evolution of that behavior and the influence of the environment.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SW3] text preparation/written work
[BIOLMU2_U12] the graduate is able to use the English language vocabulary of the biological sciences at B2+ level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages in everyday professional/scientific activities	The student uses professional terminology in English on animal behavior.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SU3] text preparation/written work [SU4] test/exam - oral or written [SU5] implementation of a problem task

Subject contents

- Animal behaviours - description and quantification, antropomorphism.
- Evolution of animal behaviours, Proximate and ultimate factors influencing animal behaviour.
- Inter-individual variation in behaviour.
- Reproductive (courtship) behaviours.
- Animal cognition.
- Animals personality.
- Behavioural contagion and empathy in animals.
- Behavioural coordination.

Prerequisites and co-requisites

English language at least B2 level - subject literature and course in English.

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
test	51.0%	80.0%
presentation/raport	51.0%	20.0%

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Recommended reading</td><td>Basic literature</td><td>Scientific papers and internet sources pointed out in the course of the lecture, including:

• Wojczulanis-Jakubas K, Araya-Salas M, Jakubas D (2018) Seabird parents provision their chick in a coordinated manner. PLoS One 13:e0189969
• Araya-Salas M, Wojczulanis-Jakubas K, Phillips EM, et al (2017) To overlap or not to overlap: context-dependent coordinated singing in lekking longbilled hermits. Anim Behav 124:. doi: 10.1016/j.anbehav.2016.12.003
• Araya-Salas M, Gonzalez-Gomez P, Wojczulanis-Jakubas K, et al (2018) Spatial memory is as important as weapon and body size for territorial ownership in a lekking hummingbird. Sci Rep 8:. doi: 10.1038/s41598-018-20441-x</td></tr>
<tr><td>Supplementary literature</td><td>Other cientific papers and internet sources pointed out in the course of the lecture.</td></tr>
<tr><td>eResources addresses</td><td>Adresy na platformie eNauczanie:</td></tr>
<tr><td>Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed</td><td colspan="2">Which of the statements you would consider biased in terms of anthropomorphism?

a) Bonobos exhibit homosexual behaviour for enhancing social bonds.

b) A dog seeing a familiar human wags the tail, this way expressing its emotions.

c) Cats are always happy upon reunion with familiar humans, even if they do not express it that vividly as dogs do

A dog finding a bone which it digged down few days ago is an example of:

a) recall

b) insight

c) conditioning

d) none of the specified

Coordinated singing of hermit hummingbirds is an example of:

a) cooperation between individuals to decrease individual's fitness.

b) an adaptive behaviour, adjusted to specificity of the acoustic landscape (i.e. individuals try to avoid their signals overlapping when singing in a close distance to each other).

c) a pattern that does not really have an adaptive value but happens simply by chance.</td></tr>
</table>

Work placement	Not applicable

Document generated electronically. Does not require a seal or signature.