

Subject card

Subject name and code	Fundamentals of Ethology, PG_00152020						
Field of study	Psychology						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025		Academic year of realisation of subject		2026/2027		
Education level	uniform Master's studies		Subject group		Obligatory subject group in the field of study Humanistic-social subject group		
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery		at the university		
Year of study	2		Language of instruction		Polish		
Semester of study	4		ECTS credits		3.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		exam		
Conducting unit	Laboratory of Vertebrate Ecology and Ethology -> Department of Vertebrate Ecology and Zoology -> Faculty of Biology -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		prof. dr hab. Katarzyna Wojczulanis-Jakubas				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	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	30		10.0		50.0	90
Subject objectives	The goal of the course is to provide basic knowledge of the evolution and ontogeny of animal behaviors, taking into account genetic, environmental and social aspects of the behaviours.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[PSYCHJ5_U08] He/she is able to efficiently use selected theoretical approaches to analyse the undertaken practical activities.	The student knows the terminology of animal behavior and can use it.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SU4] test/exam - oral or written
	[PSYCHJ5_U02] He/she is able to use and integrate theoretical knowledge in the field of psychology and related disciplines in order to analyse complex psychological, educational, aid or therapeutic problems, as well as diagnose and design practical activities.	The student can interpret animal behavior in the context of its evolution and environmental conditions.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SU4] test/exam - oral or written [SU5] implementation of a problem task
	[PSYCHJ5_K01] He/she has deeper awareness of the level of his/her knowledge and skills, he/she understands the need for continuous personal and professional development.	The student understands the need to verify information on animal behavior based on the professional literature.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SK5] implementation of a problem task
	[PSYCHJ5_W09] He/she has structured knowledge of the theory of upbringing, learning and teaching, other educational processes and various educational environments, their specificity and processes taking place in them.	The student understands the mechanisms of learning in animals and the evolution of cognitive abilities.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[PSYCHJ5_U05] He/she has in-depth skills to present his/her own ideas, doubts, and suggestions, to support them with extensive argumentation in the context of selected theoretical perspectives, views of various authors, while being guided by ethical principles.	The student is able to correctly interpret observed animal behavior, demonstrating creativity and correct application of professional literature to support his argument.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SU5] implementation of a problem task
	[PSYCHJ5_W10] Has an in-depth and expanded knowledge of the biological, pedagogical, social and philosophical bases of human mental functioning; understands the nature of functionality and dysfunctionality, harmony and disharmony, norm and pathology.	The student knows various animal behaviors and understands the issue of inter-individual variability in these behaviors.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
Subject contents	• Research methods in ethology. • Spatial behavior. • Learning and cognitive abilities of animals. • Behavioral contagion. • Coordination of behaviors in animals. • Self-awareness of animals. • Inter-individual variation in animal behavior. • Personality of animals.		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	English at the B2 level, enabling the use of English-language source materials.		
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	written exam test	51.0%	80.0%
	presenation	51.0%	20.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature	Krebs, J.R. i N.B. Davies. Wprowadzenie do Ekologii Behawioralnej. PWN W-wa. 2014.	

	Supplementary literature	Scientific papers presented during the lecture, including: - 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 - Wojczulanis-Jakubas K, Jakubas D, Øigarden T, Lifjeld JT (2009) Extrapair copulations are frequent but unsuccessful in a highly colonial seabird, the little auk, <i>Alle alle</i>. Anim Behav 77:433438. doi: 10.1016/j.anbehav.2008.10.019 - Grissot A, Araya-Salas M, Jakubas D, et al (2019) Parental Coordination of Chick Provisioning in a Planktivorous Arctic Seabird Under Divergent - Conditions on Foraging Grounds. Front Ecol Evol 7:. doi: 10.3389/fevo.2019.00349 - Wojczulanis-Jakubas K (2021) Being the winner is being the loser when playing a parental tug-of-war a new framework on stability of biparental care. Front Ecol Evol 9:. doi: 10.3389/fevo.2021.763075 - Wojczulanis-Jakubas K, Minias P, Kaczmarek K, Janiszewski T (2013) Late-breeding Great Cormorants <i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i> produce fewer young of the more vulnerable sex. Ibis 155:626631. doi: 10.1111/ibi.12061 - Wojczulanis-Jakubas K, Drobniak SM, Jakubas D, et al (2018) Assortative mating patterns of multiple phenotypic traits in a long-lived seabird. Ibis, doi: 10.1111/ibi.12568 - Minias P, Wojczulanis-Jakubas K, Kaczmarek K (2014) Offspring sex ratio varies according to nest location within a colony of great cormorants. Auk 131:388395. doi: 10.1642/AUK-13-259.1 - Wojczulanis-Jakubas K, Jakubas D, Stempniewicz L (2005) Changes in the Glaucous Gull Predatory Pressure on Little Auks in Southwest Spitsbergen. Waterbirds 28:430435. doi: 10.1675/1524-4695
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	[Wykład tylko w języku polskim] PYTANIE: Wykonywanie przez osobnika nowych i nie zaprogramowanych genetycznie działań, podobnych do zaobserwowanych aktualnie lub wcześniej u innych osobników to: - uczenie przez wgląd (ang. <i>insight</i>) - warunkowanie instrumentalne - uczenie społeczne - imprinting PYTANIE: Zalecenie, by unikać prób tłumaczenia zachowania zwierzęcia jako skutku jego wyższych zdolności psychicznych, jeśli można je wyjaśnić jako efekt zdolności niższych, to: - efekt Thorndike'a - prawo Zipfa - zasada Premack'a - zasada parasytonii	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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