

Course Code	HP3205
Course Title	Animal Behavior
Pre-requisites	HP1000 or ES2303 or BS1001 AND HP2100 or BS1008 or MH2500
No of AUs	3

Course Aims

Designed for students interested in the scientific study of behavior, this course presents an integrative approach to studying the mechanisms and function of animal behavior. It also provides you with a basis for understanding how research on behavior is conducted, and how studies of animals contribute to behavioral science. You will learn about the integrative approach to studying behavior, exploring the contributions that development, genetics, neurology, and physiology have on behavior. You will cover approaches examining the evolutionary function of behavior, and will be exposed to studies on animal communication and sociality. You will also learn the relevance of animal studies in better clarifying the mechanisms of human behavior.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Apply the concept of natural selection to behavior
2. Use an integrative approach to studying behavior
3. Evaluate studies in animal behavior
4. Review the developmental, genetic, neural, and physiological bases of behavior
5. Identify basic categories of animal behavior
6. Recognize the central role of reproduction on the evolution of behavior
7. Consider how animal behavior concepts apply to human behavior
8. Complete a study in animal behavior

Course Content

Animal behavior studies the function and mechanisms underlying behavior using studies on animals. The field has been quite important in developing a scientific approach to studying behavior, which is often difficult to objectively quantify and study. In this class, you will be introduced to the field of animal behavior and become familiar with the integrative approach to studying how behavior works. You will cover the foundational mechanisms of behavior, such as development, genetics, neurology, and physiology, and will learn ways to study behavior. You will learn about basic aspects of animal behavior, such as feeding behavior, predation, territoriality, migration, and reproductive behavior. You will have the opportunity to explore studies in animal communication, and how their messages are deciphered. You will also learn about social behavior, parenting, and mating systems in this course. Animal behavior approaches the study of behavior through an evolutionary perspective, and you will learn in this course how the field applies to helping us better understand the foundations of human behavior as well.

Assessment (continuous assessment)

Component	ILO Tested	Related Programme LO or Graduate Attributes	Weighting	Team/Individual
1. In-class tests: Communicate and apply knowledge	1-7	Communication, Civic-mindedness, Creativity, Competence	45%	Individual

2. Class Activities & Homework: Learning by Doing	1-7	Communication, Creativity, Character, Civic-mindedness	20%	Individual
3. Project: Animal Behavior Studies	1-8	Communication, Character, Civic-mindedness, Creativity, Competence	35%	Individual
Total			100%	

Formative feedback

Feedback is central to this course, and all evaluation components are designed to give detailed feedback directly to you.

In-class tests: Tests are given in class, so that there is greater student-teacher interaction during them and also so that in-class feedback can be given. After taking a test, you will receive its evaluation with written feedback about 1 week later during a lecture period dedicated to covering the test and its answers. Here, I will cover all answers, point out common mistakes, reinforce correct answers, and provide you with an opportunity to ask questions and discuss issues directly with me.

Class activities & Homework: Activities will be evaluated and returned to you within 1-2 weeks after being turned in. You will be given direct feedback on how to improve your work, as well as highlight what you did achieve successfully. You will also have the opportunity to discuss your performance with me.

Project: All students will receive a detailed and personalized evaluation report on their class project within 2-3 weeks after the last day of class. Here, I will write about the strengths and weaknesses of your project, give recommendations for improvement, and reinforce aspects that were well done. These reports provide a complete discussion of how your project was evaluated, and will help you better understand your performance and areas needed for improvement.

Learning and Teaching approach

Approach	How does this approach support you in achieving the learning outcomes?
Lecture	All course material will be covered during lectures. Material is drawn from the text books, primary literature, lecturer's research and experience, experts in the field, and other sources. The goal is to provide you with a broad perspective about the field, and to direct you into the topics. Lecture is taught in a way that is engaging, and provides relevant examples and opportunities for discussion to keep class interesting. Lecture is meant to augment and direct course reading, not replace it.
Activities	You will be given activities and homework in this course to help you master the material. These activities will require you to learn by doing. You will take concepts, principles, and findings learned in class, and critique or apply them. Assignments will require you to understand the material to

	successfully complete, and thus will improve your ability to learn and retain knowledge acquired in the course.
Reading	In the course, you will need to read the course text book. You are required to purchase the main text in a legally permissible manner. Reading gives you better detail than lecture, while lecture gives you easier access to the basics of the material. To fully master the material, you need to experience the lectures on each topic and the readings associated with them.
Project	Immersion in a project is one of the best ways to learn. In this course, you will have the opportunity to develop a project on studies in animal behavior. Generally, this will be in the form of a project that will require you to design, implement, and evaluate research. The project will give you actual experience observing and scoring animal behavior, such as in a visit to the zoo, watching video, or observing feral animals. From this project, you will gain intellectual, public communication, and technical experience.

Reading and References

Rubenstein D.R. & Alcock J. (2019) Animal Behavior. 11th Edition. Oxford, UK. Sinauer Associates. (R)

Course Policies and Student Responsibilities

Lecture Attendance: Attendance is mandatory for general lecture classes, but students are given 3 excused absences from lecture. More than three absences from class, can result in grade reductions, if formal school-certified leave is not provided to justify the absences.

Activity Attendance: Attendance during activities, i.e., tests, discussions, project presentations, and other required activities can only be excused with formal school-certified leave provided by the student. Make-up assignments for such activities are devised case-by-case. Notification of intent to miss the activity must be provided before the start of the activity, except for genuine emergency situations.

Academic Integrity

You must have read and be familiar with the [academic integrity website](#) prior to the start of the course. You are responsible to adhere to these guidelines. Failure to do so for any aspect of the course, will be subject to relevant University procedures regarding breaches in Academic Integrity.

Planned Weekly Schedule

Week	Lecture #	Topic	ILO	Readings/ Activities
1	Lecture 1	Introduction to the Field of Animal Behavior	1,2,3	R1
2	Lecture 2	The Integrative Approach to Behavior	2,3,5,7	R2
3	Lecture 3	Developmental & Genetic Bases of Behavior	2-5	R3

4	Lecture 4	Neural Basis of Behavior	2-5	R4
5	Lecture 5	Physiological Basis of Behavior	2-5	R5
6	Lecture 6	Predation and Foraging	1-5	R6
7	Lecture 7	Territoriality and Migration	1-5	R7
8	Lecture 8	Principles of Communication	2-5	R8
9	Lecture 9	Reproductive Behavior	1-6	R9
10	Lecture 10	Mating Systems	1-6	R10
11	Lecture 11	Parental Care	1-6	R11
12	Lecture 12	Social Behavior & Evolution	1-6	R12 & 13
13	Lecture 13	Human Behavior	7	R14