

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Mate Choice

Partnerval

7.5 Higher Education

Credits

7.5 ECTS credits

Course code:	BL7061
Valid from:	Autumn 2020
Date of approval:	2023-11-21
Department	Department of Biology Education
Main field:	Biology
Specialisation:	A1N - Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Decision

This course syllabus was approved by the Board of Science at Stockholm University on 09/03/2020.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

For admission to the course, knowledge is required equivalent to Ethology I, 15 ECTS credits (BL5013). English 6 or equivalent.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
HELA	Mate Choice	7.5

Course content

This course addresses the major theoretical aspects of animal sexual behaviours. Following a background to fundamental concepts in sexual selection, the course will examine how and why animals choose and compete for access to mates both before and after mating. The course will demonstrate how the study of animal sexual behaviours has become one of the central fields in contemporary biology by combining the fields of ethology, psychology, evolutionary biology, physiology and ecology. Lectures will focus on male and female mate choice, competition for access to mates, sperm competition and cryptic female choice, maintaining throughout a focus on understanding how an animal's ecology and evolutionary history influence their sexual behaviours.

Learning outcomes

After completing the course, the student is expected to be able to:

- describe and explain the major theories of sexual selection.
- describe and discuss how and why animals choose mates, how and why competition influences mating behaviours and mate choice, and how and why mate choice and competition continues after mating.
- describe and discuss how cognition, perception, ecology, physiology and evolutionary history influences animal sexual behaviours.

Education

Teaching consists of lectures, seminars and group work.
The course is offered in English.

Forms of examination

- The course is examined as follows: Assessment takes place through written tests, written presentations and

oral presentations. The examiner can decide on adapted or alternative examination formats for students with disabilities.

The examination will be conducted in English.

b. A passing final grade requires participation in seminars and group teaching. If special reasons exist, following consultation with the teacher involved, the examiner may grant the student exemption from the obligation to participate in certain compulsory instruction.

c. Grading: The course's final grade is set according to a seven-point criterion-referenced scale:

A = Excellent

B = Very good

C = Good

D = Satisfactory

E = Adequate

Fx = Fail, some additional work required

F = Fail, much additional work required

d. The course's grading criteria are handed out at the start of the course.

e. Students who receive a failing grade on a regular examination are allowed to retake the examination as long as the course is still provided. The number of examination opportunities is not limited. Other mandatory course elements are equated with examinations. A student who has received a passing grade on an examination may not retake the examination to attain a higher grade. A student who has failed the same examination twice is entitled to have another examiner appointed, unless there are special reasons to the contrary. Such requests should be made to the department board. The course includes at least three examination opportunities per academic year the course is offered. For the academic years that the course is not offered, at least one examination opportunity is offered.

f. There is no possibility to improve the grade Fx to a pass grade in this course.

Interim

Students may request that the examination be conducted in accordance with this course plan even after it has ceased to be valid. However, this may not take place more than three times over a two-year period after the course was discontinued. Requests must be made to the departmental board. The provision also applies in the case of revisions of the course syllabus and revisions of the required reading.

Misc

The course is part of Master's Programme in Ethology, but may also be taken as a separate course.

Required reading

The required reading is decided by the department board and published on course page in the course catalogue at least 2 months before the start of the course.