

# Syllabus

for course at advanced level

**Sensory Biology and Animal Communication**  
**Sinnesbiologi och djurs kommunikation**

**7.5 Higher Education  
Credits**  
**7.5 ECTS credits**

<b>Course code:</b>	BL7070
<b>Valid from:</b>	Autumn 2023
<b>Date of approval:</b>	2023-02-07
<b>Department</b>	Department of Biology Education
<b>Main field:</b>	Biology
<b>Specialisation:</b>	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 February 7, 2023.

## Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

For admission to the course, knowledge is required equivalent to 165 credits, of which 60 credits in biology or non-clinical psychology. English 6 or equivalent.

## Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
HELA	Sensory Biology and Animal Communication	7.5

## Course content

The course introduces animals' sensory systems and how they are used to interact with the environment and to communicate with other animals. The course deals with the properties of different sensory stimuli, how these stimuli are detected and encoded in the brain to generate behavior with some emphasis on how sensory information is used in animal communication. Great emphasis is placed on the evolution of sense organs and adaptations to different environments and lifestyles.

## Learning outcomes

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

- explain the anatomy, function and neural processes of sensory organs in different animals
- describe how sensory systems drive animal behavior and in particular animal communication
- reason about connections between adaptations in different sensory systems and the animals' way of life and environment.

## Education

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

## Forms of examination

a. The course is examined as follows: Assessment takes place through written tests, written 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 group instruction and seminars. 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 = Failed, some additional work is required

F = Failed, much additional work is 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.

#### **Limitations**

This course may not be included in a degree together with the course Sensory biology (BL5030) or with equivalent courses.

#### **Misc**

This course is part of the 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 in Stockholm University's online course catalogue at least 2 months before the start of the course.