



Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Animal Social and Sexual Behaviour
Djurs sociala och sexuella beteende

7.5 Higher Education
Credits
7.5 ECTS credits

Course code:	BL7071
Valid from:	Autumn 2023
Date of approval:	2023-02-07
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 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	Animal Social and Sexual Behaviour	7.5

Course content

The course deals with the most important theoretical aspects of the social and sexual behavior of animals. In particular, the course will examine how and why animals form and interact in social groups, and how and why animals choose and compete for mates during reproduction. Links between social and sexual behaviors will be explored. The course will show why the study of animal social and sexual behavior has become a central field in contemporary biology by combining ethology, psychology, evolutionary biology, physiology and ecology. Lectures will focus on social interactions, cooperative behaviours, animal groups and movements, male and female mate choice, competition for access to mates, sperm competition and cryptic female choice. Throughout the course, the focus is on understanding how animals' ecology and evolutionary history affects their social and sexual behaviors.

Learning outcomes

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

- discuss how and why animals form social groups and interact during mating
- analyze complex behavioral phenomena and apply knowledge of experimental design when assessing research results
- present clear conclusions and summarize research results orally
- integrate concepts from the course to illustrate the connections between social and sexual behaviours
- apply Tinbergen's four questions to the social and sexual behaviors of animals

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 Mate choice (BL7061) 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.