

Module code: MOD009965	Version: 1 Date Amended: 11/Apr/2025
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1. Module Title
Behaviour

2a. Module Leader
Jonathan Amory

2b. School
Writtle School of Agriculture, Animal and Environmental Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level
5

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

The module introduces you to the fascinating world of animal behaviour and how it's shaped by both the natural and imposed environments. You'll explore why animals behave the way they do by examining theoretical models that explain behavioural mechanisms whilst also considering how different behaviours help animals survive and adapt to their environment. You'll also learn how animals are trained and the methods of measuring behaviour.

This module also helps you build essential academic skills. This includes the writing of a scientific essay which involves understanding concepts presented in lectures together with discussion of research articles relevant to the study of animal behaviour. Your report will need to be presented according to scientific journal article standards, including proper referencing of source material and correct use of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

6b. Outline Content

STUDY OF BEHAVIOUR: instinct v innate, fixed action patterns, stimulus and response, complex behaviour built from chains of reactions.

LEARNING: classical conditioning, operant conditioning, shaping, latent and insight learning.

BEHAVIOURAL ECOLOGY: struggle for survival, fitness and adaptive behaviour, motivation, optimality of behaviour, time budgets.

MEASURING BEHAVIOUR: reasons to measure, ethograms, scan and focal sampling, effect of observer, intra and inter observer effects.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)

No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Recognise and describe the concepts relevant to the study of animal behaviour
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Explain the methods by which an animal interacts with its environment
3	Knowledge and Understanding	Compare and contrast animal behaviour in natural and imposed environments

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	28	1-3	Lectures - Usually includes a range of visiting speakers
Other teacher managed learning	8	1-3	Visits and Workshops
Student managed learning	114	1-3	Self-Directed Learning
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-3	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Individually written essay on animal behaviour. (3000 Words)					

Assessment components for Element 010				
Component No.	Assessment Title	Submission Method	Weighting (%)	Components needed for Mark Calculation?
010/1	Assignment Plan	Canvas	10 (%)	All
010/2	Final Book Chapter	Canvas	90 (%)	

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

- (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above**
- (b) pass any pass/fail elements**

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]