BIOL3320

Animal Behaviour

Session 1, Infrequent attendance, North Ryde 2020

Department of Biological Sciences

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Martin Whiting martin.whiting@mq.edu.au Kate Barry kate.barry@mq.edu.au
Credit points 10
Prerequisites 130cp at 1000 level or above including (BIOL208 or (BIOL2310 or BIOL228) or (BIOL2210 or BIOL229) or (BIOL2230 or BIOL257) or (BIOL2320 or BIOL260) or (BIOL2510 or BIOL262))
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description Communication underpins all social behaviour. Research on animal signalling provides insights into sensory processes, decision making and the factors determining success or failure in the struggle to reproduce. This unit reviews major current issues in the study of animal communication, taking a broadly integrative approach to cover evolution, development, function, and mechanism. Topics include: channels of communication; sensory systems; evolutionary origins; design features of language and communication systems; the problem of intentionality; manipulation; and deception.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Demonstrate an understanding and knowledge of fundamental concepts in animal behaviour

ULO2: Identify the proximate and ultimate mechanisms of animal behaviour

ULO3: Demonstrate understanding of the role of natural selection, including sexual selection, in shaping animal behaviour

ULO4: Apply animal behaviour research to conservation issues

ULO5: Conduct behavioural observation and apply methods of behavioural analysis

ULO6: Formulate hypotheses and predictions and design, conduct, and analyse behavioural experiments

Assessment Tasks

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Assessment details are no longer provided here as a result of changes due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Students should consult iLearn for revised unit information.

Find out more about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and potential impacts on staff and students

General Assessment Information

Late submissions: Assessments submitted after the due date and without an approved "Special Consideration" will be penalised one mark per day late. For example, if the assessment carries a value of 30% of the total unit grade and you initially achieve a score of 20/30 (67%) but have submitted one day late, one mark will be subtracted from the initial score (ie 20 - 1 = 19 out of 30 = 63%).

Delivery and Resources

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Any references to on-campus delivery below may no longer be relevant due to COVID-19.

Please check here for updated delivery information: https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit_status

Unit outline, lecture and practical materials and course notices will be distributed via iLearn. http://ilearn.mq.edu.au

iLearn is a web-based computer mediated communication package and can be accessed by most web browsers from inside or outside the University. iLearn and email will be the principle method of communication in this subject.

You must use iLearn for:

• Regularly checking subject announcements—particularly with regard to the pracs and class readings;

• Downloading course materials;

• Downloading some of the reference material;

• Using the discussion board.

Practicals will be in the lab or outdoors on campus where we will design behavioural experiments and learn how to sample and measure behaviour.

You can certainly survive this course without a textbook. However, if you wish to get the most out of the course and really use the opportunity to learn something about animal behaviour, I recommend buying Animal Behaviour (11th ed.) by Dustin Rubenstein and John Alcock, available at the Co-op bookshop on campus. There are also copies in the library that you can consult. And note that earlier editions (e.g. 10th ed.) are only by Alcock. There are many other animal behaviour books that will also be useful for this course. There are also likely to be plenty of second-hand copies for purchase online (of earlier editions). Finally, reading this book will help with the quizzes.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- Academic Appeals Policy
- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Progression Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Fitness to Practice Procedure
- Grade Appeal Policy
- Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public
- Special Consideration Policy *(**Note:** The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.)*

Students seeking more policy resources can visit the Student Policy Gateway (https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct

Results

Results published on platform other than eStudent, (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the

University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Getting help with your assignment
- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- Subject and Research Guides
- Ask a Librarian

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Plagiarism

Assessments submitted via Turnitin will be subjected to plagiarism detection. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action.