

**SEMESTER II**  
**LSM1303 ANIMAL BEHAVIOR**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Preclusion: Life Sciences Major/Minor and student from Bachelor of Environmental Studies Programme)**

**Workload: 26 lecture hours + 8 tutorial and presentation hours + 14 group project field trip hours**

An understanding of an animal behavior provides an appreciation of the uniqueness of a particular species and other similar species. How an animal's behavior is best suited to a particular ecological situation is explored through fundamental and current theories including optimality, natural and sexual selection. A diversity of animal behaviors are explored such as learning, communication, territoriality and courtship. Research methods will also be discussed and explored through student projects. The knowledge gained through animal behavior can be translated into better animal care and conservation, and perhaps provide a better insight into our own behavior.

S/N	Topics	Lecture hours
1.	<b>Overview &amp; Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of course structure</li> <li>• Introduction: why animal behavior is studied and a brief history of the study of animal behavior</li> </ul>	2
2.	<b>Fundamentals of Animal Behaviour</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The science of behaviour (ethology) &amp; Methods of observation</li> <li>• Learning: types, e.g. habituation and trial-and-error learning</li> <li>• Instinctive and learnt behaviours (simple stimuli) and Learning (complex stimuli)</li> <li>• Natural selection; Nature versus Nurture</li> <li>• Human/animal mate selection</li> </ul>	10
3.	<b>Diversity of Animal Behaviour</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adaptation and decision making: theories of optimality,</li> <li>• Living in groups &amp; Social behaviour</li> <li>• Animal communication: diversity and applications</li> <li>• Territoriality</li> <li>• Courtship &amp; Mating</li> <li>• Adaptations to urbanisation &amp; Human - Animal conflict</li> </ul>	14
		Total Lectures: 26h Tutorials: 10h Field work: = 14h
	<b>Total hours:</b>	50h

**TEXT BOOK:**

The lecture series is not based on any specific text. Any basic animal behaviour book will address the topics covered, e.g.

- Michael D. Breed & Janice Moore, 2012. *Animal Behavior*. [various chapters; Access online via NUS Libraries E-Resource]
- Marian Stamp Dawkins, 2007. *Observing Animal Behaviour: design and analysis of quantitative data*. [various chapters; Access online via NUS Libraries E-Resource]

**MODE OF ASSESSMENT:**

60% Continual Assessment –Group Project, In-Lecture Quizzes

40% Final Examination (Closed Book)

**MODULE CO-ORDINATOR/LECTURER:**

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