



COURSE UNIT INFORMATION SHEET (SYLLABUS)

2020/2021

Name Theoretical ethology
Teaching staff Prof. Rodrigo de Sá-Nogueira Saraiva
ECTS 6
Functioning Sixth semester, optional, theoretical and discussion classes.
Learning goals <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Understanding behaviour as a system of processes adaptively connecting an organism to its environment<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Function cycles, behavioural systems2. Typology3. <i>Homo</i>2. Social and mating systems<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Causes, diversity and typology
Skills to be developed <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Being able to think about a given species psychology as a system of functions connecting organism and environment2. Mastering the central concepts of ethology3. Having a basic understanding of ethological research programs
Prerequisites (precedences) *



Contents

1. A brief history of ethology
2. Environment monitoring and adaptation to mutable but predictable environments
 1. Protozoans, invertebrates, poikilotherms, mammals, apes and *Homo*
3. Social structure and mating systems
 1. Determinant behavioural process
 2. Eusocial animals
 1. Hymenoptera, Bathyergidae and Heterocephalidae.
 2. *Homo sapiens* ?
 3. Mammals
 1. Typology
 4. Primates, apes
 5. *Homo*

Bibliography

Alcock, J., 2013: *Animal Behavior: an evolutionary approach*, 10th Ed. Sinauer, Sunderland, Mass.

Eibl-Eibesfeldt, I. 1989: *Human Ethology*, Nova Iorque, Aldine de Gruyter.

Sá-Nogueira Saraiva, 2003: *Mundos Animais, Universos Humanos: análise comparada da representação do ambiente*. Fundação Gulbenkian, Lisboa.

Shettleworth, S. J., 2009: *Cognition, Evolution and Behavior*, 2nd Ed. Oxford University Press, Nova Iorque e Oxford.

Teaching methods

Theoretical expositions followed by discussions based on real life behavioural examples.

Evaluation Regimes (General and/or Alternative)

Optional in the 6th semester. Theoretical and discussion classes



Evaluation Elements

The evaluation will consist either on a final exam or on an essay on a theme chosen by the student. The theme must be related to the contents of the CU and be approved by the professor. There will also be an intermediate evaluation during the course.

Rules for grade improvement

Grades can be improved in the second phase.

Rules for students having previously failed the course unit *

The final exam must be taken again or the final essay must be resubmitted.

Requirements on attendance and punctuality

After three failures to attend, a full point will be taken off for each subsequent failure.

Rules for special students

(workers, elite athletes, student body leaders, military, fathers/mothers, with special needs) *

These students are exempt from the requirements on attendance and punctuality, but are nevertheless strongly encouraged to attend classes.

Language of instruction

Depending on the number of foreign students, it can be either in Portuguese or in English.

Disciplinary violations and penalties

According to the Evaluation of Learning Regulation of the Faculty of Psychology of the University of Lisbon, the following behaviors are considered as disciplinary offenses subject to disciplinary action:

a) To use or attempt to use materials, information, notes, study resources or other objects and equipment not authorized in academic exercises;



- b) To help or try to help a colleague in committing a disciplinary offense;
- c) To submit the same written work for evaluation in different course units without permission from the instructors, even if with minor changes;
- d) To present someone else's work as one's own;
- e) To forge, or change without permission from the author, any information or citation in an academic work;
- f) To interfere, change or attempt to change grades;
- g) To try to prevent or interfere with the proper functioning of classes, research or other academic activities;
- h) To make false accusations regarding instructors, governance bodies, other students or non-teaching staff of the FPUL;
- i) To falsify signatures in attendance sheets, documents relating to evaluation elements or in any official document relating to an academic process or status.

Disciplinary offenses committed in any assessment element can lead to its annulment, and must be reported to the Pedagogical Council or, considering their gravity and repetition, may lead to other penalties, to be determined by the Rector of the University of Lisbon.

* If applicable