



COURSE UNIT INFORMATION SHEET (*SYLLABUS*)

2021/2022

Study Programme: *Undergraduate degree in Psychology*

Name Epistemology and History of Psychology
Teaching staff (Also indicate the Professor in charge) Prof. R. de Sá-Saraiva
ECTS 6
Functioning 2 nd year, 1 st semester Theoretical presentations 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. Tipology3. <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,
 2. invertebrates,
 3. poikilotherms,
 4. mammals,
 5. apes
 6. *Homo*
3. Social structure and mating systems
 1. What determines sociality? Kinds of sociality
 2. The special case of 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

Lectures immediately followed by theoretical/practicals in which films in which the processes explained in



the lectures are illustrated. The students must identify these processes.

Evaluation Regimes (General and/or Alternative)

There will be two evaluation elements, one at the end and the other at mid term.

Evaluation Elements

(Dates due, weights, minimum required grades)

The final evaluation will represent 70% and the intermediate one 30% of the final grade

Rules for grade improvement

Final evaluation may be improved

Rules for students having previously failed the course unit *

Final evaluation may be improved

Requirements on attendance and punctuality

Students may skip three classes, but over that each miss will subtract a whole point in the final grade.

Rules for special students

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

The requirements on attendance do not apply to these students even if they are strongly encouraged to attend to classes

Language of instruction

Either Portuguese or English, depending on a significant presence of Erasmus students. The language of teaching will be voted by the class. The Professor can communicate verbally in either English or French, he can understand, but not speak, Italian and Spanish and can read simple messages in German.

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