

COURSE LAYOUT

1. GENERAL

SCHOOL	Animal Biosciences		
DEPARTMENT	Animal Science		
STUDY LEVEL	Bachelor		
COURSE CODE	169	SEMESTER	7 th
COURSE TITLE	Ethology and Welfare of Farm Animals		
INDEPENDENT TEACHING ACTIVITIES		WEEKLY TEACHING HOURS	ECTS
Lectures		3	3
COURSE TYPE	Field of Science		
PREREQUISITES	-		
LANGUAGE	Greek		
IS THE COURSE OFFERED for ERASMUS STUDENTS?	Yes (in English)		
COURSE WEB PAGE (URL)	https://oeclass.aua.gr/eclass/courses/706/ (in Greek)		
EDUCATIONAL STAFF	Simitzis P.		

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learning Outcomes

The course "Ethology of Farm animals" aims to familiarize students, in theoretical and practical level, with the contemporary applied methods of studying animal behaviour and especially farm animal behaviour.

In particular, theoretical lectures focus on the description and etiology of each behavioural element exhibited by the animal, as well as on the understanding of the hereditary and environmental factors that act in synchrony and influence animal behavior. The knowledge of the behavioural patterns of animals is of vital importance because it ensures the appropriate facilities and systems of management and improves animal welfare by minimizing stress condition and satisfying animal needs. At the same time, an effort is made to highlight the differences in the exhibition of behavioural patterns among animal species, with the intention that the students will be able to recognize and define these differences. Finally, a special emphasis is given on the contemporary methods of recording and studying of animal behavior and on the choice of the necessary systems of management and treatments for dealing with the exhibition of abnormal and stereotypical behaviours.

The course targets at :

- The comprehension of the basic parameters of which consists each form of behavior and the design of the respective ethogram.
- Teaching the correct processes of measurement, data acquisition and handling and evaluation of the behavioural data.
- The determination of the parameters that characterize the display of the abnormal behaviours and the adjustment of management conditions with the intention of minimizing stereotypes and problematic behaviours.

At the same time, students are trained on writing scientific reports.

General Competences

- Search, analysis and synthesis of data by using the necessary forms of technology
- Individual and group work
- Producing new research ideas
- Promotion of free, creative and inductive thinking

3. COURSE CONTENT

1. Animal behaviour and ethology

- i. Historical review and contemporary trends
- ii. The transmission of signals
- iii. Sensory systems and stimuli (vision, hearing, olfaction, taste, sound production)
- iv. Mechanism of communication
- v. Consciousness in animals
- vi. Instinct, learning ability and memory

2. Behaviour of young - growing animals

- i. Embryo
- ii. Neonatal
- iii. Sensory development
- iv. Imprinting
- v. Grouping
- vi. Games

3. Behaviour of adult animals

- i. Ingestive – feeding behaviour
- ii. Environment detection
- iii. Rest and sleep
- iv. Communication
- v. Social behaviour

4. Reproductive behaviour

- i. Behavioural basis of reproduction
- ii. Oestrous behaviour
- iii. Mating behaviour
- iv. Behaviour during parturition

5. Abnormal behaviour

6. Evolution and behaviour

7. Genetic basis of behaviour

8. Behaviour of ruminants

- i. Cattle
- ii. Calves
- iii. Sheep
- iv. Goats

9. Pig behavior

- i. Gilt
- ii. Boar
- iii. Fattening piglet

10. Behaviour of birds

- i. Laying hens
- ii. Broilers
- iii. Others

11. Behaviour of rabbits

- i. Does
- ii. Fattening rabbits

12. Behaviour and animal welfare.

- i. Interaction between human and animal behaviour
- ii. Welfare of productive animals

4. TEACHING and LEARNING METHODS - Evaluation

TEACHING METHOD	In class, face to face.	
USE OF INFORMATICS and COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES	PowerPoint and video presentations. Communication with students via e-mail. Teaching support through access to the e-class platform, to on-line databases etc.	
TEACHING ORGANISATION	Activities	Work load per semester
	Lectures	39
	Personal or Group written essay	16
	Individual study of students	20
	Total of Course (25 work hours per credit unit)	75
STUDENTS EVALUATION	I. Final written examination on the course's theory (100%), consisting of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluation of elements of the course's theory 2. Short-answer questions 	

5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

-Proposed Literature:

Jensen P., 2002. *The Ethology of Domestic Animals: An Introductory Text*. CABI Publ.

Mc Farland D., 1999. *Animal Behaviour*. Pearson Education Limited, Edinburgh, England

Scott G., 2005. *Essential Animal Behavior*. Blackwell Publishing, Australia.

-Related Scientific Journals:

Applied Animal Behaviour Science, Physiology & Behavior, Animals