

School of Biology

Important Degree Information:

B.Sc./M.A. Honours

The general requirements are 480 credits over a period of normally 4 years (and not more than 5 years) or part-time equivalent; the final two years being an approved honours programme of 240 credits, of which 90 credits are at 4000-level and at least a further 120 credits at 3000- and/or 4000-levels. Refer to the appropriate Faculty regulations for lists of subjects recognised as qualifying towards either a B.Sc. or a M.A. degree.

B.Sc./M.A. Honours with Integrated Year Abroad

The general requirements are 540 credits over a period of normally 5 years (and not more than 6 years) or part-time equivalent; the final three years being an approved honours programme of 300 credits, of which 60 credits are gained during the integrated year abroad, 90 credits are at 4000 level and at least a further 120 credits at 3000 and/or 4000 levels. Refer to the appropriate Faculty regulations for lists of subjects recognised as qualifying towards either a B.Sc. or M.A. degree.

Other Information: In the case of students who spend part of the Honours Programme abroad on a recognised Exchange Scheme, the Programme Requirements will be amended to take into account courses taken while abroad. With the permission of the Director of Teaching up to 20 credits per programme may be taken in a module outwith the specified modules in the above Programmes. Entry to the Honours programme is at the discretion of the Director of Teaching, but is automatically granted for students gaining at least grade 11 in two of the prerequisite second year modules. Those who, at their first attempt, earn a minimum aggregate of 35 grade points from 2000-level Biology modules will also be considered for entry. Where there are choices between modules in the programmes that follow, some options may have pre-requisites so that choices may be limited by the Pre-Honours modules taken. *The availability of 4000-level modules in the School of Biology will be dependent on sufficient student demand.*

Degree Programmes	Programme Requirements at:
(B.Sc. Honours): Animal Biology (Not available to entrants after 2005/6)	Single Honours Animal Biology Degree: Level 1: 60 credits comprising passes in BL1001; BL1201 and BL1002. Level 2: At least 60 credits including BL2102 and BL2106. Level 3: 120-125 credits comprising: BL3307; at least two from BL3313, BL3315, BL3319; and the remaining credits from BL3301, BL3302, BL3303, BL3306, BL3308, BL3309, BL3316, BL3318. BL3000 is also required if BL3308 or BL3309 are taken. Level 4: BL4200 and FIVE other modules, OR BL4201 and FOUR other modules. Other modules to be chosen will be four or five from BL4231-BL4232, BL4247, BL4249, BL4250, BL4256-BL4259, BL4266-BL4269, BL4271, BL4276, BL4280-BL4285, and BL4290; but may also include ONE of BL4291-BL4293, ID4001. One BL4000 level module not specified here may be taken as an alternative, with the permission of the Degree Controller and Director of Teaching.

Degree Programmes	Programme Requirements at:
<p>(B.Sc. Honours): Behavioural Biology</p> <p>(Only available to students who began their programme in 2004/5 or later)</p>	<p>Single Honours Behavioural Biology Degree:</p> <p>Level 1: 60 credits including passes in BL1001, BL1002 and either BL1201 or SD1002.</p> <p>Level 2: at least 60 credits including BL2102 and BL2105.</p> <p>Level 3: 125 credits comprising BL3000, BL3306, BL3307, BL3308, BL3319; and two from BL3309, BL3313, BL3315, BL3316, BL3318.</p> <p>Level 4: BL4200 and FIVE other modules, OR BL4201 and FOUR other modules. Other modules to be chosen will be four or five from BL4232, BL4256, BL4258, BL4280-BL4285, BL4290; but may also include ONE of BL4291-BL4293, ID4001. One BL4000 level module not specified here may be taken as an alternative, with the permission of the Degree Controller and Director of Teaching.</p>
<p>(B.Sc. Honours): Behavioural & Environmental Biology</p> <p>(Not available to entrants after 2005/6)</p>	<p>Single Honours Behavioural & Environmental Biology B.Sc. Degree:</p> <p>Level 1: 60 credits including passes in BL1001; BL1002 and BL1201.</p> <p>Level 2: At least 60 credits including BL2102 and BL2105</p> <p>Level 3: 125 credits comprising BL3000, BL3306, BL3307, BL3308, BL3319; and two from BL3309, BL3313, BL3315, BL3316, BL3318.</p> <p>Level 4: BL4200 and FIVE other modules, OR BL4201 and FOUR other modules. Other modules to be chosen will be four or five from BL4232, BL4256, BL4258, BL4280-BL4285, BL4290; but may also include ONE of BL4291-BL4293, ID4001. One BL4000 level module not specified here may be taken as an alternative, with the permission of the Degree Controller and Director of Teaching.</p>
<p>(B.Sc. Honours): Biochemistry</p>	<p>Single Honours Biochemistry Degree:</p> <p>Level 1: 40 credits comprising passes in BL1001 and BL1201. BL1002 is also recommended for all students considering Honours Programmes in the School of Biology.</p> <p>Level 2: At least 60 credits including BL2101 and BL2104.</p> <p>Level 3: 120 credits comprising BL3301, BL3302, BL3303, BL3310; and two from BL3311, BL3312, BL3313.</p> <p>Level 4: BL4200, BL4210 and FOUR other modules, OR BL4201, BL4210 and THREE other modules. Other modules to be chosen will be three or four from BL4211–BL4218, BL4221 and BL4230; but may also include ONE of BL4219, BL4220, BL4240, BL4242, BL4246, BL4255, BL4290-BL4293, ID4001. One BL4000 level module not specified here may be taken as an alternative, with the permission of the Degree Controller and Director of Teaching.</p>

Degree Programmes	Programme Requirements at:
<p>(B.Sc. Honours):</p> <p>Biology</p>	<p>Single Honours Biology Degree:</p> <p>Level 1: 60 credits including passes in BL1001, BL1002 and either BL1201 or SD1002.</p> <p>Level 2: At least 60 credits from 2000-level modules available in the School of Biology</p> <p>Level 3: 120-125 credits comprising a free choice of modules as approved by the Degree Controller & Director of Teaching. Students on this programme are expected to study across a wide range of sub-disciplines within Biology. BL3000 is required if BL3308 or BL3309 are taken.</p> <p>Level 4: BL4200 and FIVE other modules, OR BL4201 and FOUR other modules; the other modules comprising a free choice as approved by the Degree Controller and Director of Teaching.</p>
<p>(B.Sc. Honours):</p> <p>Biology and Economics</p>	<p>Biology element Joint Honours Biology and Economics Degree:</p> <p>Level 1: 60 credits including passes in BL1001, BL1002 and either BL1201 or SD1002.</p> <p>Level 2: 60 credits including any two 2000-level Biology modules with a grade 11 pass in each.</p> <p>Level 3: 60 credits from modules BL3301-BL3319; 20 credits will normally be taken in Semester 1 and 40 credits in Semester 2.</p> <p>BL3000 is required if BL3308 or BL3309 are taken.</p> <p>Level 4: 60 credits from any BL4000 level modules.</p>
<p>(B.Sc. Honours):</p> <p>Biology with French[^] or German[^] or Spanish[^]</p> <p>[^]also available as 'with Integrated Year Abroad Degrees'</p>	<p>Biology element of Major Degree with French or German:</p> <p>Level 1: 60 credits including passes in BL1001, BL1002 and either BL1201 or SD1002.</p> <p>Level 2: 60 credits from the 2000-level modules available in the School of Biology.</p> <p>Levels 3 & 4: 180 credits from BL modules.</p> <p>BL3000 is required if BL3308 or BL3309 are taken.</p> <p>Typically at level 4000: BL4200 and 3 or 4 other BL4000 level 15 credit modules, OR BL4201 and 2 or 3 other BL4000 level 15 credit modules. Other modules to be chosen will be from the groups defined for a Single Honours Degree, subject to the permission of the Degree Controller and Director of Teaching.</p>

Degree Programmes	Programme Requirements at:
<p>(B.Sc. Honours):</p> <p>Biomolecular Science</p> <p>(note admission to this degree is via the School of Chemistry)</p>	<p>Biomolecular Science (B.Sc. Honours):</p> <p>Level 1: Biology Element: 40 credits including passes in BL1001 and BL1201.</p> <p>Chemistry Element: 20 – 40 credits comprising pass or bypass for CH1001, pass in CH1004</p> <p>Level 2: 120 credits including BL2101, BL2104 and CH2101 and CH2103</p> <p>Level 3: Biology Element: BL3301 or BL3302; BL3310; BL3312.</p> <p>Further modules as specified by the School of Chemistry. Chemistry Element: CH3611, CH3612, CH3613, CH3621, CH3432, CH3716</p> <p>Level 4: 120 credits comprising:</p> <p>Biology element: BL4210 and THREE modules chosen from (BL4211-BL4218, BL4221 and BL4230)#.</p> <p>Chemistry element: CH4442 and TWO other modules chosen from CH4611, CH4612, CH4613, CH5611, CH5612, CH5613, CH5614, CH5616.</p> <p>(By special arrangement only, BL4201 may be taken instead of CH4442; but modules chosen from # must then be eliminated and five 10 credit CH modules taken.)</p> <p>Chemistry: Direct entry into Level 2000 is possible, in which case 120 advanced standing credits at level 1000 are given.</p> <p>In the case of students who spend part of the Honours Programme abroad on a recognised Exchange Scheme, the Programme Requirements will be amended to take into account courses taken while abroad.</p>
<p>(B.Sc. Honours):</p> <p>Cell Biology</p> <p>(Only available to students who began their programme in 2004/5 or later)</p>	<p>Single Honours Cell Biology Degree:</p> <p>Level 1: 60 credits comprising passes in BL1001; BL1002 and BL1201</p> <p>Level 2: at least 60 credits including BL2101 and BL2104.</p> <p>Level 3: 120 credits comprising BL3301, BL3302, BL3303; and three from BL3310, BL3311, BL3312, BL3313, BL3315.</p> <p>Level 4: BL4200 and FIVE other modules, OR BL4201 and FOUR other modules. Other modules to be chosen will be four or five from BL4210*, BL4211-BL4221, BL4230-BL4232, BL4240-BL4242, BL4250; but may also include ONE of BL4290-BL4293, ID4001. One BL4000 level module not specified here may be taken as an alternative, with the permission of the Degree Controller and Director of Teaching.</p> <p>*BL4210 should normally be taken by any student not graduating in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology but whose project supervisor is in the Centre for Biomolecular Science.</p>

Degree Programmes	Programme Requirements at:
<p>(B.Sc. Honours):</p> <p>Cell Biology & Pathology</p> <p>(Not available to entrants after 2005/6)</p>	<p>Single Honours Cell Biology & Pathology Degree:</p> <p>Level 1: 60 credits comprising passes in BL1001; BL1002 and BL1201</p> <p>Level 2: At least 60 credits including BL2101 and BL2104</p> <p>Level 3: 120 credits comprising BL3301, BL3302, BL3303, BL3311; and two from BL3310, BL3312, BL3313, BL3315.</p> <p>Level 4: BL4200 and FIVE other modules, OR BL4201 and FOUR other modules. Other modules to be chosen will be four or five from BL4210*, BL4211-BL4221, BL4230-BL4232, BL4240-BL4242, BL4250; but may also include ONE of BL4290-BL4293, ID4001. One BL4000 level module not specified here may be taken as an alternative, with the permission of the Degree Controller and Director of Teaching.</p> <p>*BL4210 should normally be taken by any student not graduating in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology but whose project supervisor is in the Centre for Biomolecular Science.</p>
<p>(B.Sc. Honours):</p> <p>Ecology & Conservation</p> <p>(Only available to students who began their programme in 2004/5 or later)</p>	<p>Single Honours Ecology & Conservation Degree:</p> <p>Level 1: 60 credits including passes in BL1001, BL1002 and either BL1201 or SD1002.</p> <p>Level 2: at least 60 credits including BL2103 and BL2105.</p> <p>Level 3: 125 credits including BL3000, BL3306, BL3307, BL3308, BL3309; and two from BL3316, BL3318, BL3319.</p> <p>Level 4: BL4200 and FIVE other modules, OR BL4201 and FOUR other modules. Other modules to be chosen will be four or five from BL4219-20, BL4249, BL4257-BL4260, BL4265-BL4272, BL4282 and BL4285; but may also include ONE of BL4290-BL4293, ID4001. One BL4000 level module not specified here may be taken as an alternative, with the permission of the Degree Controller and Director of Teaching.</p>
<p>(B.Sc. Honours):</p> <p>Environmental Biology</p> <p>(Not available to entrants after 2005/6)</p>	<p>Single Honours Environmental Biology Degree:</p> <p>Level 1: 60 credits comprising passes in BL1001; BL1201 and BL1002.</p> <p>Level 2: At least 60 credits including BL2103 and BL2105.</p> <p>Level 3: 125 credits comprising BL3000, BL3306, BL3307, BL3308; and three from BL3309, BL3316, BL3318, BL3319.</p> <p>Level 4: BL4200 and FIVE other modules, OR BL4201 and FOUR other modules. Other modules to be chosen will be four or five from BL4219-20, BL4249, BL4257-BL4260, BL4265-BL4272, BL4282 and BL4285; but may also include ONE of BL4290-BL4293, ID4001. One BL4000 level module not specified here may be taken as an alternative, with the permission of the Degree Controller and Director of Teaching.</p>

Degree Programmes	Programme Requirements at:
<p>(B.Sc. Honours):</p> <p>Environmental Biology & Geography</p>	<p>Environmental Biology element of Geography Joint Degree:</p> <p>Level 1: 60 credits including passes in BL1001, BL1002 and either BL1201 or SD1002.</p> <p>Level 2: 60 credits including BL2102 or BL2103; and BL2105.</p> <p>Level 3: 60-65 credits comprising any three of BL3306, BL3307, BL3308, BL3309, BL3316, BL3318, BL3319.</p> <p>BL3000 is also required if BL3308 or BL3309 are taken.</p> <p>Level 4: Any four modules from BL4219, BL4220, BL4265-BL4276; but may also include ONE of BL4290-BL4293, ID4001. One BL4000 level module not specified here may be taken as an alternative, with the permission of the Degree Controller and Director of Teaching.</p>
<p>(B.Sc. Honours):</p> <p>Environmental Biology & Environmental Geoscience or Geoscience</p>	<p>Environmental Biology of Geoscience Joint Degrees:</p> <p>Level 1: 60 credits including passes in BL1001, BL1002 and either BL1201 or SD1002.</p> <p>Level 2: 60 credits including BL2102 or BL2103; and BL2105</p> <p>Level 3: 60-65 credits taken from BL3000, BL3306, BL3307, BL3308, BL3309, BL3316, BL3318, BL3319.</p> <p>Level 4: Any four modules from BL4219, BL4220, BL4265-BL4276; but may also include ONE of BL4290- BL4293, ID4001. One BL4000 level module not specified here may be taken as an alternative, with the permission of the Degree Controller and Director of Teaching.</p>
<p>(B.Sc. Honours):</p> <p>Evolutionary Biology</p> <p>(Only available to students who began their programme in 2004/5 or later)</p>	<p>Single Honours Evolutionary Biology Degree:</p> <p>Level 1: 60 credits including passes in BL1001, BL1002 and either BL1201 or SD1002</p> <p>Level 2: At least 60 credits including BL2103 and BL2105.</p> <p>Level 3: 120-125 credits comprising BL3307; and five from BL3302, BL3306, BL3308, BL3309, BL3313, BL3315, BL3316, BL3318, BL3319.</p> <p>BL3000 is also required if BL3308 or BL3309 are taken.</p> <p>Level 4: BL4200 and FIVE other modules, OR BL4201 and FOUR other modules. Other modules to be chosen will be four or five from BL4218, BL4271- BL4276, BL4280, BL4282, BL4284, BL4292; but may also include ONE of BL4290, BL4291, BL4293, ID4001. One BL4000 level module not specified here may be taken as an alternative, with the permission of the Degree Controller and Director of Teaching.</p>
<p>(B.Sc. Honours):</p> <p>Evolutionary & Environmental Biology</p> <p>(Not available to entrants after 2005/6)</p>	<p>Single Honours Evolutionary & Environmental Biology Degree:</p> <p>Level 1: 60 credits comprising passes in BL1001; BL1002 and BL1201.</p> <p>Level 2: At least 60 credits including BL2103 and BL2105.</p> <p>Level 3: 120-125 credits comprising BL3307; and five from BL3302, BL3306, BL3308, BL3309, BL3313, BL3315, BL3316, BL3318, BL3319.</p> <p>BL3000 is also required if BL3308 or BL3309 is taken.</p> <p>Level 4: Any four modules from BL4219, BL4220, BL4265-BL4276, BL4280; but may also include ONE of BL4290-BL4293, ID4001. One BL4000 level module not specified here may be taken as an alternative, with the permission of the Degree Controller and Director of Teaching.</p>

Degree Programmes	Programme Requirements at:
<p>(B.Sc. Honours):</p> <p>Human Biology</p> <p>(Not available to entrants after 2008/9)</p>	<p>Single Honours Human Biology Degree:</p> <p>Level 1: 60 credits comprising passes in BL1001, BL1002 and BL1201 Level 2: At least 60 credits including BL2101 and BL2106.</p> <p>Level 3: 120 credits from BL3301, BL3302, BL3303, BL3306, BL3310, BL3311, BL3312, BL3313, BL3315, BL3319.</p> <p>Level 4: BL4200 and FIVE other modules, OR BL4201 and FOUR other modules. For 2007-2008, BL4238 and BL4239 are recommended. Other modules to be chosen will be two or three from BL4210*, BL4217, BL4230-BL4232, BL4240-BL4248, BL4259, BL4280; but may also include ONE of BL4290-BL4293, ID4001. One BL4000 level module not specified here may be taken as an alternative, with the permission of the Degree Controller and Director of Teaching.</p> <p>*BL4210 should normally be taken by any student not graduating in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology but whose project supervisor is in the Centre for Biomolecular Science.</p>
<p>(B.Sc. Honours):</p> <p>Marine Biology</p>	<p>Single Honours Marine Biology Degree:</p> <p>Level 1: 60 credits including passes in BL1001, BL1002 and either BL1201 or SD1002.</p> <p>Level 2: 120 credits from 2000-level Biology modules which must include BL2102.</p> <p>Level 3: 125 credits comprising BL3000, BL3306, BL3308 and BL3318; and three from BL3307, BL3309, BL3313, BL3315, BL3316, BL3319.</p> <p>Level 4: BL4200 and FIVE other modules, OR BL4201 and FOUR other modules. Other modules to be chosen will be at least THREE from BL4249-BL4260, but may also include ONE from BL4247, BL4248, BL4265-BL4269, BL4290, and ONE from BL4291-BL4293, ID4001. One BL4000 level module not specified here may be taken as an alternative, with the permission of the Degree Controller and Director of Teaching.</p>
<p>(B.Sc. Honours):</p> <p>Marine & Environmental Biology</p> <p>(Not available to entrants after 2005/6)</p>	<p>Single Honours Marine & Environmental Biology Degree:</p> <p>Level 1: 60 credits comprising passes in BL1001; BL1002 and BL1201.</p> <p>Level 2: 120 credits from 2000-level Biology modules which must include BL2102.</p> <p>Level 3: 125 credits comprising BL3000, BL3306, BL3308 and BL3318; and three from BL3307, BL3309, BL3313, BL3315, BL3316, BL3319.</p> <p>Level 4: BL4200 and FIVE other modules, OR BL4201 and FOUR other modules. Other modules to be chosen will be at least THREE from BL4249-BL4260, but may also include ONE from BL4247, BL4248, BL4265-BL4269, BL4290, and ONE from BL4291-BL4293, ID4001. One BL4000 level module not specified here may be taken as an alternative, with the permission of the Degree Controller and Director of Teaching.</p>

Degree Programmes	Programme Requirements at:
(B.Sc. Honours): Molecular Biology	<p>Single Honours Molecular Biology Degree:</p> <p>Level 1: 40 credits including passes in BL1001 and BL1201. BL1002 is also recommended for all students considering Honours Programmes in the School of Biology.</p> <p>Level 2: At least 60 credits including BL2101 and BL2104.</p> <p>Level 3: 120 credits comprising BL3301, BL3302, BL3303, BL3310, BL3311; and either BL3312 or BL3315.</p> <p>Level 4: BL4200, BL4210 and FOUR other modules, OR BL4201, BL4210 and THREE other modules. Other modules to be chosen will be three or four from BL4211–BL4218, BL4221 and BL4230; but may also include ONE of BL4219, BL4220, BL4240, BL4242, BL4246, BL4255, BL4290–BL4293, ID4001. One BL4000 level module not specified here may be taken as an alternative, with the permission of the Degree Controller and Director of Teaching.</p>
(B.Sc. Honours): Neuroscience	<p>Biology element of Single Honours Neuroscience Degree (Psychology requirements listed under School of Psychology entry):</p> <p>Level 1: 60 credits comprising passes in BL1001; BL1201 and BL1002.</p> <p>Level 2: 60 credits including BL2104 or BL2106; and BL2101. Level 3: 120 credits comprising BL3303 and BL3313; and four from BL3301, BL3302, BL3306, BL3312, BL3315, BL3319.</p> <p>Level 4: BL4200 and FIVE other modules, OR BL4201 and FOUR other modules. Other modules to be chosen will be four or five from BL4210*, BL4221, BL4230–BL4232, BL4240, BL4242; PS3008, PS3009, PS4065, PS4066, PS4071; but may also include ONE of BL4290–BL4293, ID4001. One BL4000 level module not specified here may be taken as an alternative, with the permission of the Degree Controller and Director of Teaching.</p> <p>*BL4210 should normally be taken by any student not graduating in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology but whose project supervisor is in the Centre for Biomolecular Science.</p>
(B.Sc. Honours): Physiology	<p>Single Honours Physiology Degree:</p> <p>Level 1: 60 credits comprising passes in BL1001; BL1002 and BL1201</p> <p>Level 2: At least 60 credits including BL2101 and BL2106</p> <p>Level 3: 120 credits from BL3301, BL3302, BL3303, BL3306, BL3310, BL3311, BL3312, BL3313, BL3315, BL3318, BL3319.</p> <p>Level 4: BL4200 and FIVE other modules, OR BL4201 and FOUR other modules. For 2007–2008, BL4238 and BL4239 are compulsory. Other modules to be chosen will be two or three from BL4210*, BL4217, BL4230–BL4232, BL4240–BL4248, BL4250; but may also include ONE of BL4290–BL4293, ID4001. One BL4000 level module not specified here may be taken as an alternative, with the permission of the Degree Controller and Director of Teaching.</p> <p>*BL4210 should normally be taken by any student not graduating in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology but whose project supervisor is in the Centre for Biomolecular Science.</p>

Degree Programmes	Programme Requirements at:
<p>(B.Sc. Honours):</p> <p>Plant & Environmental Biology</p> <p>(Not available to entrants after 2005/6)</p>	<p>Single Honours Plant & Environmental Biology Degree:</p> <p>Level 1: 60 credits comprising passes in BL1001; BL1002 and BL1201.</p> <p>Level 2: At least 60 credits including BL2103 and BL2105</p> <p>Level 3: 120-125 credits comprising BL3316; and five from BL3301, BL3302, BL3306, BL3307, BL3308, BL3309, BL3310, BL3318.</p> <p>BL3000 is also required if BL3308 or BL3309 are taken.</p> <p>Level 4: BL4200 and FIVE other modules, OR BL4201 and FOUR other modules. Other modules to be chosen will be four or five from BL4214, BL4219, BL4220, BL4265-BL4276, BL4277 and BL4284; but may also include ONE of BL4290-BL4293, ID4001. One BL4000 level module not specified here may be taken as an alternative, with the permission of the Degree Controller and Director of Teaching.</p>
<p>(B.Sc. Honours):</p> <p>Zoology</p>	<p>Single Honours Zoology Degree:</p> <p>Level 1: 60 credits including passes in BL1001, BL1002 and either BL1201 or SD1002.</p> <p>Level 2: At least 60 credits including BL2102 and BL2106.</p> <p>Level 3: 120-125 credits comprising BL3307; at least two from BL3313, BL3315, BL331; and the remaining credits from BL3301, BL3302, BL3303, BL3306, BL3308, BL3309, BL3316, BL3318.</p> <p>BL3000 is also required if BL3308 or BL3309 are taken.</p> <p>Level 4: BL4200 and FIVE other modules, OR BL4201 and FOUR other modules. Other modules to be chosen will be four or five from BL4231-BL4232, BL4247, BL4249, BL4250, BL4256-BL4259, BL4266-BL4269, BL4271, BL4276, BL4280-BL4285, and BL4290; but may also include ONE of BL4291-BL4293, ID4001. One BL4000 level module not specified here may be taken as an alternative, with the permission of the Degree Controller and Director of Teaching.</p>

Students completing any other degree programmes (as defined in previous Course Catalogues) should discuss their module selections with one of the School's Honours Advisers.

Modules

Normally the prerequisite for each of the following Honours modules is entry to the Honours Programme(s) for which they are specified, as well as any additional specific prerequisite(s) given.

General degree students wishing to enter 3000 modules and non-graduating students wishing to enter 3000 or 4000 level modules must consult with the relevant Honours Adviser within the School before making their selection.

Biology – Honours 2007/08 – December 2007

Biology (BL) Modules

BL3000 Field Course

Credits: 5.0 Semester: summer vacation

Co-requisite: BL3308 or BL3309

Description: This module involves field-based exercises in a range of aquatic and/or terrestrial habitats. Students will examine and measure biodiversity, ecophysiological adaptation, and community structure, with both plant and animal material. Class exercises are used to develop good sampling techniques and to generate and analyse large data sets. Students also work in small project groups to develop individual skills in experimental design, practical manipulations, time-management and personal initiative, and in verbal/written presentation of project results.

Class Hour: One week residential course

Assessment: Continuous Assessment =100%

BL3301 Protein Structure & Function

Credits: 20.0 Semester: 1

Description: This module builds on the material covered in BL1201 to provide an understanding of more advanced aspects of protein structure and enzymology. The module begins by considering protein conformation and the mechanisms of protein folding, both intrinsic and under the influence of natural catalysts. The behaviour of microtubules is used to illustrate the range of properties which emerge as a consequence of the assembly of proteins into large complexes while a study of the molecular and submolecular basis of protein function focuses on the mechanisms of proteolytic enzymes. This in turn leads into the phenomena of allosteric regulation, signalling cascades and transporter systems and is followed by a consideration of enzymes as pharmacological target design. The module includes an introduction to computer techniques for the display and examination of protein structure and to Bioinformatics for mining the information in protein and nucleic acid sequence databases. There is also an introduction to the use of electronic information resources. The associated laboratory course introduces the fundamentals of safe laboratory practice. It provides grounding in the basic laboratory techniques, including associated calculations, as well as those associated with the study of proteins and enzymes.

Class Hour: Lectures: 10.00 am Monday, Wednesday and Friday every week. Practicals: to be arranged.

Teaching: 40-50 contact hours, including up to 35 hours lectures and seminars, plus practicals.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 34%, 3 Hour Examination = 66%

BL3302 Gene Regulation

Credits: 20.0 Semester: 1

Prerequisites: Normally BL1201 and BL2104

Description: This module builds on material covered in BL1201 Molecular Biology and BL2104 Biochemistry & Molecular Biology. It first considers the structure of genes and the composition of genomes and then examines genetic activity in eukaryotes in relation to nuclear organization, chromatin structure and epigenetic mechanisms. Regulation of expression at the levels of gene transcription, RNA processing, RNA stability and translation, are next covered in detail, drawing particular attention to the nature of protein-nucleic acid interactions. Specific control mechanisms in different prokaryotic and eukaryotic systems, induced by environmental, cell cycle, metabolic and developmental signals, are highlighted.

Class Hour: Lectures: 9.00 am Monday, Wednesday, Friday every week. Practicals: to be arranged.

Teaching: 40-50 contact hours, including up to 35 hours lectures and seminars, plus practicals.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 34%, 3 Hour Examination = 66%

BL3303 Membranes & Cell Communication

Credits: 20.0 Semester: 1

Description: This module deals with the structural and functional organisation of biological membranes. The dynamic molecular components of biological membranes are studied by investigating the mechanisms involved in the control of membrane fluidity, the measurement of membrane fluidity and the biogenesis of new molecular components of the membrane. The central role that biological membranes play in the regulation of the movement of molecules between different extracellular, intracellular and transcellular compartments is also considered. The process of molecular transport is studied at both a theoretical and practical level. The interaction between the structural and functional organisation of the cell membrane is highlighted by studying the specialisation seen in the major transporting epithelial tissues. Topics covered include: (i) structural and kinetic analysis of ligand-receptor interactions; (ii) GTP-binding proteins and the generation of intracellular second messengers: cyclic AMP, cyclic GMP, diacyl glycerol and inositol triphosphate; (iii) the activation of receptor and intracellular protein kinases: serine/threonine and tyrosine kinases; (iv) de-sensitisation of signal responses and receptor 'cross-talk'; (v) direct and indirect activation of plasma membrane ion channels; (vi) nuclear receptors and the regulation of gene expression. The practical component includes experiments to illustrate methods used to elucidate signalling pathways as well as providing training in laboratory and transferable skills.

Class Hour: Lectures: 12.00 noon Monday, Wednesday and Friday every week. Practicals: to be arranged.

Teaching: 40-50 contact hours, including up to 35 hours of lectures and seminars, plus practicals.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 34%, 3 Hour Examination = 66%

BL3306 Environmental Physiology

Credits: 20.0 Semester: 1

Description: This module deals with how physiological processes allow organisms to cope with variations in particular aspects of their external environments. A central feature of the course will be an exploration of the responses of organisms (animals in particular, with some comparative studies of plants) to variation in temperature, water availability and osmotic stress, nutrient levels, light, and pressure, both at the molecular and whole organism level, and covering a range of animals from marine, freshwater, terrestrial and parasitic habitats. There will also be analyses of seasonally induced physiological responses, including reproduction, food intake and fattening, torpor and hibernation, including analysis of the mechanisms involved in monitoring and responding to changing conditions.

Class Hour: Lectures: 2.00 pm Monday, Tuesday and Thursday every week. Practicals: to be arranged.

Teaching: 40-50 contact hours, including up to 35 hours lectures and seminars, plus practicals.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 34%, 3 Hour Examination = 66%

BL3307 Evolution

Credits: 20.0 Semester: 1

Description: Topics in this module will include: molecular variation and evolution, including phylogeny reconstruction; the evolution and maintenance of sex; the genetics of continuous traits, and the relative importance of continuous and discontinuous variation in evolution; evolution of population genetic structure; the genetics of speciation, covering the evolution of pre- and post-zygotic isolation, reproductive displacement and reinforcement, and parapatric, sympatric and island speciation. Practicals will involve computer simulations to investigate a range of evolutionary phenomena, plus use of molecular markers to examine population structure and speciation.

Class Hour: Lectures: 9.00 am Tuesday and Thursday, 11.00 am Friday every week. Practicals: to be arranged.

Teaching: 40-50 contact hours, including up to 35 hours lectures and seminars, plus practicals.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 34%, 3 Hour Examination = 66%

Biology – Honours 2007/08 – December 2007

BL3308 Aquatic Ecology

Credits: 20.0 Semester: 1
Co-requisite: BL3000

Description: This module introduces the ecology of aquatic systems beginning with a description of the problems of life in a fluid medium. The module then considers the contrasting conditions that are inherent in freshwater, estuarine and marine systems. The influence of global climate variation and the close coupling between land and sea will be emphasised. Case studies will then be used to introduce the ecology of a variety of aquatic systems including tropical, temperate and polar systems.

Class Hour: Lectures: 11.00 am Monday, Tuesday and Thursday every week. Practicals: to be arranged.

Teaching: 40-50 hours, including up to 35 hours lectures and seminars, and practicals.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 34%, 3 Hour Examination = 66%

BL3309 Ecosystems and Conservation

Credits: 20.0 Semester: 2
Prerequisites: Normally BL2105 or SD2001

Co-requisite: BL3000

Description: This module will examine how ecosystems function and how they provide services for humans: information which is essential for ecologists, conservationists and land managers. The module will consider examples of natural systems being altered by man to demonstrate how ecosystems function and the consequences of anthropogenic change. Disturbance and regulation in ecosystems, atmospheric and hydrological regulation, (including the green house effect and acidification), soil ecology, conservation and management of natural resources, agricultural and grazed ecosystems (including GMOs), urban ecosystems and aspects of sustainable development will also be discussed.

Class Hour: Lectures: 12.00 noon Monday, Tuesday and Thursday every week. Practicals: to be arranged.

Teaching: 40-50 hours, including up to 35 hours lectures and seminars, and practicals.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 34%, 3 Hour Examination = 66%

BL3310 Metabolism and Bioenergetics

Credits: 20.0 Semester: 2

Description: Energy transduction, the conversion of one form of energy into another by a biochemical process, is at the centre of all life. The syllabus includes a review of human metabolism and its integration throughout different tissues using as a model the metabolic adaptations associated with starvation. Student-led seminars will tackle topics such as the regulation of food intake (satiety) and apoptosis. The biological systems for harvesting light energy and for conserving chemical energy from food to product ATP are considered in detail along with chemiosmotic theory and principles. The module also covers the energy requirements of transport and motor processes and the effects on the cell of the failure of energy generation. Practical classes will introduce the student to the methods used in bioenergetics.

Class Hour: Lectures: 11.00 am Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday every week. Practicals: to be arranged.

Teaching: 40-50 contact hours, including up to 35 hours of lectures and seminars, plus practicals.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 34%, 3 Hour Examination = 66%

BL3311 Infection & Immunity

Credits: 20.0 Semester: 2

Prerequisites: Normally BL2104 and BL2101

Description: This module will include lectures in three component areas: human immune defences against infection, viral disease and effective treatment and pathogenicity of common bacterial infections. In all three component areas the emphasis will be on understanding at the molecular level.

Class Hour: Lectures: 9.00 am Tuesday and Thursday and 11.00 am Friday every week. Practicals: to be arranged.

Teaching: 40-50 contact hours, including up to 35 hours of lectures and seminars, plus practicals.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 34%, 3 Hour Examination = 66%

BL3312 Pharmacology

Credits: 20.0 Semester: 2

Description: This module assumes that students are familiar with the material covered in BL2002 and BL2006. The basic principles of pharmacology will be covered, including evidence to support the modern concept that drugs act via specific receptors present on target tissues and an explanation of our present understanding of laws governing drug-receptor interactions. The concept of agonists, competitive and non-competitive antagonists and the interactions between such classes of drugs will be discussed. The effects of drugs upon the peripheral and central nervous systems and the cardio-vascular system will be covered. How these drugs can be used to understand the function of these systems and to correct their malfunctioning in various disease states will be explained.

The practical component will cover the principles of drug action and receptor theory and illustrate the use of bioassays in pharmacological investigations. The practicals aim to help students build a working knowledge of drug names and actions as well as pharmacological concepts.

Class Hour: Lectures: 12.00 noon Monday, Wednesday and Thursday every week. Practical: to be arranged.

Teaching: 40-50 contact hours, including up to 35 hours of lectures and seminars, plus practicals.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 34%, 3 Hour Examination = 66%

BL3313 Neuroscience

Credits: 20.0 Semester: 2

Description: This module covers biochemical, cellular and behavioural aspects of the nervous system. It starts with the basic biochemistry of neural membrane proteins such as receptors and channels, and considers the cellular mechanisms of action potential generation and propagation, and synaptic transmission. The physiology of sensory perception is illustrated by examining the visual system, while motor control is considered in terms of vertebrate locomotion. Selected aspects of learning and memory processes are examined from simple invertebrate systems through to the higher primates. Students are given extensive hands-on experience of computer simulation as a learning tool in this course. The associated practical work illustrates the lecture course through experiments on the nerve impulse, sensory processes, and the biochemistry of synaptic transmission.

Class Hour: Lectures: 9.00 am Monday, Wednesday and Friday every week. Practical: to be arranged.

Teaching: 40-50 contact hours, including up to 35 hours of lectures and seminars, plus practicals.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 34%, 3 Hour Examination = 66%

BL3315 Developmental Biology

Credits: 20.0 Semester: 2

Description: This module considers the enigma of development, how complexity arises from apparent simplicity when an adult develops from an egg. It examines development from fertilisation to maturity in a range of organisms, but concentrates on higher vertebrates including man, and the fruitfly *Drosophila*. Early-acting mechanisms for generating differences between initially identical cell populations to produce patterning and structure in embryos will be considered. The development of the nervous system will be examined in depth. *Drosophila* embryonic development and the hormonal control of metamorphosis in flies and amphibians will also be studied.

Class Hour: Lectures: 12.00 noon Monday, Wednesday and Thursday every week. Practical: to be arranged.

Teaching: 40-50 contact hours, including up to 35 hours of lectures and seminars, plus practicals.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 34%, 3 Hour Examination = 66%

Biology – Honours 2007/08 – December 2007

BL3316 Animal Plant Interactions

Credits: 20.0 Semester: 2

Anti-requisite: BL4125

Description: This module concerns the coevolution of plants and animals, including the ecological, behavioural and physiological aspects of their interactions. Pollination biology and the constraints on participating plants and animals are dealt with in depth, including applied aspects of crop pollination, and this is followed by a review of seed dispersal. Then patterns of herbivory by insects, vertebrates and other animals are considered, illustrating the interactions of plant physical and chemical defences and herbivores' reciprocal adaptations from feeding specializations and host plant selection through to detoxification systems and life history adaptations. Interactions with third parties are also explained, especially plant-fungus-insect systems. There is an introduction to other tritrophic interactions (whereby plants can recruit herbivores' enemies as part of their defences, or recruit ants as biotic plant guards), to insects as plant pests, and to integrated and sustainable approaches to control measures and plant protection.

Class Hour: Lectures: 9.00 am Monday, Wednesday and Friday every week. Practicals: to be arranged.

Teaching: 40-50 contact hours, including up to 35 hours of lectures and seminars, plus practicals.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 34%, 3 Hour Examination = 66%

BL3318 Biology of Marine Organisms

Credits: 20.0 Semester: 2

Prerequisites: Normally BL2102 and BL2105, plus BL3000

Description: This module will include lectures on the range of microbial and metazoan organisms and ecological systems in the marine environment. The coverage will range from bacteria, to algae, invertebrates and vertebrates (fish, birds, reptiles and mammals). The biology of marine organisms is considered in the context of both adaptations at the level of the individual and its expression in terms of large-scale latitudinal and depth-related variations in productivity and food web structure. Examples from the poles to the tropics and from shallow water to the deep ocean will be included. Practicals will be field- and laboratory-based and will provide an experimental introduction to both ecological and physiological problems in marine biology.

Class Hour: Lectures: 9.00 am Tuesday and Thursday, 11.00 am Friday every week. Practicals: to be arranged.

Teaching: 40-50 contact hours, including up to 35 hours of lectures and seminars, plus practicals.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 34%, 3 Hour Examination = 66%

BL3319 Animal Behaviour

Credits: 20.0 Semester: 2

Anti-requisites: BL3317, BL4127

Description: This module is designed to provide a broad and multifaceted perspective on animal behaviour. Nobel-Prize-winning ethologist, Niko Tinbergen, pointed out that to understand behaviour fully researchers had to answer four types of questions, about its causation, function, development and evolution. All four areas are covered in the course, which includes lectures on the genetic, neural, physiological and experiential (i.e. learning) influences on behaviour; behavioural development; foraging; sexual behaviour, sexual selection and mate choice; communication, cooperation and culture.

Class Hour: Lectures: 11.00 am Monday, Tuesday and Thursday every week. Practicals: to be arranged.

Teaching: 40-50 contact hours, including up to 35 hours of lectures and seminars, plus practicals.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 34%, 3 Hour Examination = 66%

BL4200 Literature-based Research Project

Credits: 45.0 Semester: Whole Year

Description: This project will involve an extensive literature review to investigate a defined hypothesis or problem within the field of biology, appropriate to the degree programme being studied by each student. The project will involve diligence, initiative and independence in pursuing the literature, and the production of a high-quality dissertation that demonstrates a deep understanding of the chosen area of research. Students will be allocated to a member of staff within the School of Biology who will guide and advise them in research activities throughout the academic year. The project will be written up in the form of a research dissertation, and presented in the form of an academic poster and an oral presentation.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

BL4201 Experimental Research Project

Credits: 60.0 Semester: Whole Year

Description: This project will involve extensive laboratory or field research to investigate a defined problem within biology, appropriate to the degree programme being studied by each student. The project will involve diligence, initiative and independence in pursuing the literature, good experimental design, good experimental and/or analytical technique either in the field or the laboratory, and excellent record keeping. The project will culminate in the production of a high-quality report that demonstrates a deep understanding of the chosen area of research. Students will be allocated to a member of staff within the School of Biology who will guide and advise them in research activities throughout the academic year.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

BL4210 Practical Skills for Molecular Biology & Biochemistry

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Description: Practical skills are the core of research in biochemistry and molecular biology. This module is designed to prepare students for laboratory research projects in internationally competitive research, as exemplified by groups working in the Centre for Biomolecular Sciences. Key topics are covered (one per week), to foster experimental design, core practical skills, data analysis and excellent record keeping. Each practical requires some prior theoretical familiarity, followed by the experiment and its analysis.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Seminars and practicals

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

BL4211 Antimicrobials - Mode of Action and Resistance

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Prerequisite: BL3311

Description: This module will commence by establishing the fundamental basis of antimicrobial efficacy in terms of selective toxicity, with a brief history of antimicrobials and factors that make the ideal antimicrobial. This will be followed by study of the known inhibitory action of antibacterial and antifungal drugs at the molecular level, and study of the molecular basis of microbial resistance to these drugs. Lastly, potential new sources of antimicrobials will be considered, particularly antimicrobial peptides and 'natural' antimicrobials.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Introductory lecture followed by two seminars every week.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

Biology – Honours 2007/08 – December 2007

BL4212 Flavoproteins

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Prerequisite: BL3301

Description: Flavoproteins come in a range of 'yellow' shades from almost green to almost red. They catalyze a wide variety of chemical reactions involving one- or two-electron transfers. Examples include succinate dehydrogenase in the mitochondrial respiratory chain, P450-reductases in detoxification, metabolic enzymes in fat, protein and carbohydrate metabolism, and many ferredoxins and flavocytochromes in all forms of life. This module will study how the structures and molecular functions of selected examples enable the biological roles. It will develop deductive skills, literature research, and communication of specific knowledge from reviews and primary research articles, and will encourage integration of previous basic knowledge of bioenergetics, protein structure and function, gene expression and metabolic regulation into the exploration of the cellular roles of flavoproteins.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

BL4213 Molecular Virology

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Prerequisite: BL3301

Description: Viral diseases remain a major threat to public health and the economy, both in developed and developing countries. In this module, different replication strategies employed by viruses will be described, as will their interactions with host cell proteins, and this information will be used to illustrate how certain viruses cause specific diseases. Furthermore, the ways in which the immune response controls virus infections will be described, as will mechanisms that selected viruses have evolved to circumvent these immune responses. Man's use of viruses, e.g. to further understand cellular control processes and in biotechnology, will also be illustrated.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Lectures and seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

BL4214 Molecular Mechanisms in Photosynthesis

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Prerequisite: BL3301, BL3310

Description: The module will explore, at a molecular level, the structure and function of the chloroplast, its light harvesting complexes, the reaction centre complexes, and the other components of the electron transfer system. In addition to the light reactions the dark reactions of photosynthesis will be examined, including pathways of CO₂ fixation and interactions between the chloroplasts and the mitochondria.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

BL4215 Bacterial Virulence Factors

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Prerequisite: BL3301

Description: In order to establish an infection in a host, pathogenic bacteria rely on mechanisms to adhere to host tissue, gain entry into cells, escape the host's immune response and spread and survive within or on the host. These processes are mediated by bacterial virulence factors, i.e. proteins and other bacterial products that utilise and subvert diverse host cellular processes for the benefit of the pathogen. In this module students will explore how structural biology has led to significant breakthroughs in understanding the molecular bases of some important bacterial infections.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Lectures and seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

BL4216 Structure-based Drug Discovery

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Description: The process of developing a new drug from conception to the clinic takes on average 15 years and costs over \$800M. There are now many examples of drugs developed based on a knowledge of the three dimensional structure of the target, and all major pharmaceutical companies have structural biology as part of their core drug discovery programmes. Many drugs currently used to combat AIDS were developed from a detailed knowledge of key HIV proteins, as were the two drugs used for influenza. Most major pharmaceutical companies are targeting kinases in the search for new cancer therapies, with international efforts focusing on producing structural details of huge numbers of human kinases.

This module will examine case studies of drugs that have been developed with the aid of structure-based methods.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

BL4217 Topics in Immunology

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Prerequisite: BL3311

Description: This module will extend the more general immunological component of the Infection and Immunity Module (BL3311) by considering particular aspects of the Immune Response. The key topics covered will be allergy, autoimmune disease, and immune deficiency. Each of these areas informs and enhances our general understanding of the immune system and its regulation in a complementary way, and the module will aim to explore and extract the insights gained from their study.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

BL4218 Molecular Evolution and the Origin of Life

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Prerequisite: BL3301

Description: How did life evolve from prebiotic conditions on the early earth? Where is this most likely to have happened? What were the major challenges and how might they have been overcome? Can we reconstruct the steps in molecular evolution that led to the DNA / RNA / protein world we are familiar with? This module will cover the sometimes-controversial theories that have been put forward to answer these key questions, including aspects of the role of viruses in early evolution, relationships between the three domains of life (Bacteria, Archaea and Eukarya), and the importance of lateral gene transfer in ancient and present-day evolution.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

BL4219 Biocontrol: Microbes as Agents of Biological Control of Pests

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Description: Biocontrol is attracting interest as a possible replacement for chemical control of pests; a natural enemy such as a predator or parasite of the organism to be controlled is searched for from the wild and then developed as a control system. Microbes have wide and varied interactions with most organisms including pests, and provide a pool of candidates for biocontrol measures. The microbial biocontrol agent is grown in large amounts in an industrial laboratory and tested rigorously against the target pest, as well as on a range of other organisms to determine host range and to estimate the potential impact on the environment.

This module will explore the possible use of microbes in the biological control of pests to replace harmful chemicals – the success stories, the failures, the shortcomings. In addition the future of biocontrol will be discussed.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

Biology – Honours 2007/08 – December 2007

BL4220 Geomicrobiology - from Gold Mines to Global Warming, how Microbes Influence our Planet

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Description: Geomicrobiology explores the interactions between microbes and materials within inorganic environments and investigates the effects of microbial activity on these substances. Throughout the Earth's history, microbes have successfully colonised numerous and different inorganic environments, and in the process have changed the chemical nature of geological materials therein. The current interest in geomicrobiology has been reawakened by climate change and environmental issues.

The module will commence by investigating very early Earth and its initial colonisers 3.7 BYA - the sulphate-reducing and methane-producing anaerobic bacteria - and later development of the aerobic environment.

Then issues concerning today's Earth and the consequences of geomicrobial cycling are investigated, as well tomorrow's Earth and the influence of microbial activity on global climate change. What are the future implications of geomicrobiological activity?

Finally, hypotheses regarding the geomicrobiology of a variety of newly explored space environments are considered.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

BL4221 Conus Venom Peptides: Receptor and Ion Channel Targets, and Drug Design

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Prerequisites: BL3303, BL3313

Description: Neurotoxins have highly specific actions on molecular targets, and many have been adapted for use as therapeutic, diagnostic and insecticidal agents, and as tools that reveal physiological, cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying brain function.

Amongst the predatory cone snails (*Conus*) each is a specialist in neuropharmacology, using venom to capture prey, to escape from and defend against predators, and possibly to deter competitors. Most conotoxins are small, structurally-constrained, disulphide-rich peptides. The module explores their selective targeting of specific isoforms of receptor or ion channels within a variety of molecular targets, namely, voltage-gated and ligand-gated ion channel subtypes, G protein-linked receptors, and transporter proteins. This module therefore offers a general perspective of *Conus* venoms with special relevance to biochemistry, medicine and neuroscience.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

BL4230 Molecular Biology and Biochemistry of Neurodegeneration

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Prerequisite: BL3313

Description: In this module, students will develop a detailed understanding of molecular neuroscience. There will be three main sections. Firstly, how neurons stay alive (eg. neurotrophic factor signalling cascades) is examined; then how neurons can be repaired (e.g. guidance cues, stimulatory & inhibitory factors, death signalling pathways); and thirdly, how the nervous system responds to neurodegenerative diseases, in particular Alzheimer's disease.

Work will focus at the biochemical and molecular level, so that detailed knowledge of signalling pathways including the kinase cascades from the neurotrophic factors and death pathways will be gained.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

BL4231 Neuromodulation

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2

Prerequisite: BL3313

Description: Until recently the nervous system was viewed as a black and white world in which neuronal networks carried out tasks using fast chemical synaptic transmission to produce an appropriate network output. However the output of neuronal networks is not fixed but instead is modifiable under different behavioural or developmental circumstances. A major source of flexibility in the output neuronal networks derives from neuromodulation; a process in which the basic operation of the networks remains the same but the strengths of synaptic connections and the integrative electrical properties of neurons in the networks are changed by the actions of a range of neuromodulators. This module explores the diverse range of neuromodulatory mechanisms and outlines their importance in information processing in the nervous system.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 50%, Two Hour Examination = 50%

BL4232 Neurobiology and Mechanics of Predator-Prey Interactions

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Prerequisite: BL3313

Description: Predators and their prey are locked in an evolutionary arms race which continuously refines and improves the abilities of predators to locate and capture prey, and of prey to detect and evade predators. This strong selective pressure has produced some spectacular adaptations in both the nervous systems and the overall anatomy of the animals concerned. This, combined with the usually unambiguous motivation of the animals involved in predator-prey interactions (eat or starve, escape or be eaten) has made such adaptations favoured targets for study by neuroscientists, behavioural scientists, and biomechanicists. Students on this course will undertake a series of guided case studies researching the primary literature, and the course will also include some hands-on laboratory demonstrations. The aim is both to uncover some general principles of neural and biomechanical organisation, and also to reveal the variety and ingenuity with which evolution has found different solutions to shared problems.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Seminars and occasional practical classes

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

BL4238 Cardiovascular and Respiratory Physiology

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Availability: 2007-08 only

Prerequisite: Only for students on Physiology and Human Biology Degree Programmes

Description: This module will cover three main areas. Firstly the heart and its functioning: anatomy of the heart, the cardiac cycle, cardiac action potentials and cardiac contraction. Then the circulatory system: systemic and pulmonary circulation and factors affecting rate of blood flow to specific organs; structure and regulation of blood vessels, smooth muscle function, and endothelial cells. Thirdly the respiratory system: anatomy of the airways, muscles of ventilation, rhythmic ventilation and its control, acid-base balance and carbon dioxide transport, oxygen transport, gaseous exchange, modulation of ventilation, the carotid body and aortic bodies, and regulation by hypoxia and carbonic acidosis.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two lectures

Assessment: Two Hour Examination = 100%

Biology – Honours 2007/08 – December 2007

BL4239 Endocrinology and Regulation of Epithelial Transport Systems in Kidney and Gut

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2
Availability: 2007-08 only
Prerequisite: Only for students on Physiology and Human Biology Degree Programmes
Description: The module has three sections:

- 1) The endocrine glands – hormone structure and function; how hormones released from the hypothalamus/pituitary, adrenal, thyroid, pancreas and the gastrointestinal tract control physiological processes.
- 2) Renal structure and function - secretion of unwanted waste products and toxins, retention of the essential biomolecules and electrolytes of the plasma.
- 3) The gastrointestinal tract - physiological roles of different segments and roles of various endocrine, neuro-endocrine and paracrine signalling systems.

Various diseases associated with endocrine, renal and GI tract function will also be described.

Class Hour: To be arranged.
Teaching: Two lectures
Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 50%, Two Hour Examination = 50%

BL4240 Guanylate Cyclases and Cell-Cell Signalling

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2
Prerequisite: BL3303
Description: This module will present recent information on the role of guanylate cyclases and cyclic GMP in cell-cell signalling. It will cover structure / function relationships for the cyclases and their endogenous ligands.

The membrane guanylate cyclases are activated by two distinct peptide families, the natriuretic peptides (ANP, BNP and CNP) and the guanylin peptides (guanylin, uroguanylin and renoguanylin). Factors regulating the expression and secretion of these peptides, how they activate pGC isoforms, and the physiological consequences of increasing cGMP concentrations in various tissues are discussed.

The isoforms of the cytosolic guanylate cyclases are heterodimers, and the sGCs are activated by the gas nitric oxide (NO), which is synthesised from arginine by nitric oxide synthase (NOS). The roles of NOS and sGC isoforms in vasodilation, blood clotting, the immune response and neuronal signalling will be investigated.

Class Hour: To be arranged.
Teaching: Two hour seminars
Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 50%, Two Hour Examination = 50%

BL4241 Regulating Oxygen Supply to the Body: Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1
Availability: Not available 2007-08

Description: All cells respond to metabolic stress. However, a variety of specialised cells, commonly referred to as O₂-sensing cells, are acutely sensitive to relatively small changes in pO₂. Within a variety of organisms such cells have evolved as vital homeostatic mechanisms that monitor O₂ supply and alter respiratory and circulatory function, as well as the capacity of the blood to transport O₂. Thereby, arterial pO₂ is maintained within physiological limits.

In mammals two key tissues are the pulmonary arteries and the carotid bodies. Constriction of pulmonary arteries by hypoxia optimises ventilation-perfusion matching in the lung, whilst carotid body excitation by hypoxia initiates corrective changes in breathing patterns via increased sensory afferent discharge to the brain stem. The precise mechanism(s) by which hypoxia elicits responses is still contentious, and this module will consider the competing hypotheses with the aim of developing a consensus as to the primary processes involved.

Class Hour: To be arranged.
Teaching: Lectures and seminars.
Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

BL4242 Cellular Aspects of Development

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Prerequisite: BL3315

Description: As an organism develops from a single-celled fertilized egg to a complex multicellular being that is capable of interaction with its environment, a plethora of cellular processes are evoked as cells multiply, move around, die and differentiate to take on their functions within the mature organism. This module considers these cellular aspects of animal and plant development concentrating on recent advances in our understanding of such processes. It will be of particular interest to students with an interest in developmental cell biology, but also to those with interests in other areas of biomedical science because many of the cellular pathways activated during development are of importance in a range of diseases including cancer, neurodegenerative conditions and inflammatory disorders.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

BL4243 The Physiology of Endurance Performance

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Description: The module is designed to give an understanding of the physiological demands of endurance sports. Exercise in extreme environmental conditions such as heat, cold and at altitude will be studied. The limiting factors in endurance performance will be examined, along with the training strategies used by athletes to achieve their potential. Performance enhancement will include both the use of illegal substances and legal aids to performance improvement.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

BL4244 Lab Techniques in Exercise Physiology

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Description: The module is designed to develop laboratory skills in the measurement of human subjects during exercise, and to illustrate and explore key performance measures in exercise physiology.

Laboratory-based investigations, supplemented with tutorials, will be used to illustrate running economy, VO_2 max and lactate threshold, with students planning and carrying out data collection on themselves or on other students.

The module will compliment The Physiology of Endurance Performance (BL4243), but can be taken as a free-standing module.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminars, occasional tutorials and practicals.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

BL4245 Applied Physiology of Sports

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2

Description: Analysing the physiological demands of sport is an essential requirement to designing successful training programmes and improving player performance. This module will explain techniques of movement analysis to assess the physiological demands and physical attributes required for success of those involved in the selected sports. Fitness tests used to assess the relevant physiological status of players will form part of the practical work of this module and these will be evaluated in relation to the physiological demands of the sport and their practical application. In addition, the principles of training will be investigated and the importance of these in the design and planning of athlete programmes discussed. The second part of the practical work will involve the design of a training intervention to improve performance in a specific sport.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminars and occasional practicals.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 50%, Two Hour Examination = 50%

Biology – Honours 2007/08 – December 2007

BL4246 Sport & Exercise Nutrition

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2

Description: The module will examine nutritional strategies for maintaining health and sporting performance, highlighting their importance in terms of maximizing training effects, promoting recovery and adaptation, and preventing over-training. The effects of exercising in challenging environments will be investigated to explain the changing nutritional needs of athletes involved in competition and training in various climates. Dietary analysis techniques and methods of measuring the energy cost of physical activity will be considered, and the use and value of dietary supplementation substances will be examined. Measures of body composition and calorie expenditure will be evaluated in relation to both health and sports performance.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminars and occasional practicals.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 34%, Two Hour Examination = 66%

BL4247 Practical Whole Animal Physiology

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2

Description: This is a practical module providing experience in whole animal physiology, using teleost fish as experimental models. There will be 3 introductory lectures on the theory behind the practical components. Then students will do practical mini-projects in small groups, involving measurements of (a) metabolic rate in swimming fish, (b) the energy content of biological materials and (c) osmoregulation and drinking rates. There will be an emphasis on developing quantitative skills in data collection and analysis, and on good experimental design.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Lectures and practicals.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

BL4248 Human Physiology of Diving

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Description: This module will provide an understanding of diving physics and how pressure changes affect the physiology of the human diver. It will use both tutorials and self-study sessions to cover theoretical topics such as oxygen toxicity, nitrogen narcosis and the symptoms and treatment of decompression illness. Thermal considerations of diving, long term effects and the physiology of technical mixed gas and rebreather diving will also be investigated.

Students will also explore applied topics such as the management of diving casualties and the treatment of diving-associated illnesses. The final emphasis will be on how our understanding of diving physiology directs current practice in the UK on safe diving practices.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two hour seminar.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

BL4249 Scientific Diving

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2

Prerequisite: PADI Advanced Open Water Diver or BSAC Sports Diver (or equivalent)

Description: This module will provide both theoretical and practical experience of the techniques used by scientific divers. The module is restricted to students who have an existing diving qualification (PADI Advanced Open Water Diver or BSAC Sports Diver or equivalent). Lectures prior to the field trip will cover diving safety, dive project planning, management, and risk assessment. Topics will also cover the theory behind underwater surveying techniques, remote sensing techniques and the need for ground truthing.

Abroad, students will receive training in underwater marine identification, construction and deployment of underwater surveys and sampling techniques, gaining practical experience of recording, analysing and interpreting survey data. Then they conduct a mini-research project using suitable survey techniques and present their findings through a report and a presentation.

Class Hour: Full Time 2-3 weeks in April

Teaching: Lectures, seminars and practicals.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 66%, Two Hour Examination = 34%

BL4250 Stress Physiology of Fish

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2

Description: This module will define the concept of stress, discuss how stress can be triggered and how it is determined, and discuss the ways fish respond to stressors at the physiological and molecular level. The endocrine component in primary, secondary and tertiary stress responses will be described. A number of different environmental stressors will be considered specifically for salmonid fish, because in aquaculture stress can exert important effects that influence the individual fish and this has implications for fish welfare, husbandry and also profitability of the industry.

Class Hour: To be arranged

Teaching: Two seminars.

Assessment: Two Hour Open Book Examination = 100%

BL4255 Marine Biotechnology

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Description: This module will examine the diversity of useful natural products from the sea, consider the ways in which genomic and other approaches are being used to bioprospect for new substances (especially from micro-organisms), learn how genomic approaches are overcoming the problem of unculturability of many marine prokaryotes to find such compounds, and explore some of the more unusual applications of materials derived from marine invertebrates. It will also consider how marine biotechnology is contributing to improved disease control in aquaculture, how it can help the ‘greening’ of more conventional ‘dirty’ industries and may enable us to meet our future energy needs via renewable biofuels. The societal, ethical and environmental issues associated with the development of environmental biotechnology are also considered.

Class Hour: To be arranged

Teaching: Lectures and seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

BL4256 Marine Acoustics

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2

Description: This module will provide seminar- and practical-based work on both active and passive uses of acoustics in the marine environment. It investigates sound propagation in the ocean, use of sound by man as a sampling tool (*active* acoustic sampling of the water column and seabed), and use of sound by marine mammals for communication and prey detection (as monitored by humans using *passive* listening techniques). It will also examine sound-based conflicts between humans and marine organisms. Two practical sessions will be included, one looking at active use of sound by humans gathering data at sea, the other exploring sound transmission at sea.

Class Hour: To be arranged

Teaching: Seminars and practicals.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 50%, Two Hour Examination = 50%

BL4257 Marine Invertebrate Larval Ecology

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2

Prerequisite: BL3318

Description: Most marine invertebrates include a planktonic larval stage within their life cycle. The adaptive and ecological significance of a larval stage to otherwise benthic (bottom-dwelling) species is open to numerous interpretations, but for species that are sessile as adults, dispersal and colonization potential appears to be of major significance. This module will focus both on larval growth and development during the planktonic stage and also settlement and metamorphosis to the benthic juvenile state. Successful establishment of the post-larval stage is crucial to the completion of the life cycle and understanding the control of larval settlement has major socio-economic implications for species viewed as being detrimental (e.g. fouling) or beneficial (e.g. mariculture) components of marine ecosystems.

Class Hour: To be arranged

Teaching: Seminars and practicals.

Assessment: Two Hour Open Book Examination = 100%

Biology – Honours 2007/08 – December 2007

BL4258 Foraging in Marine Mammals

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Prerequisite: BL3319

Description: This module will provide primarily seminar and practical-based analysis of the life-history requirements of foraging in marine mammals, geographical and physiological constraints on finding food, food and feeding with a focus on types of prey and adaptations by the prey, adaptations for marine mammals feeding in the marine environment, optimal foraging theory, and optimal diving theory. Initial lectures will focus on theoretical issues and description of methods to study foraging. Students will then conduct case-studies of marine-mammal foraging, which will be presented in a seminar format as a group. Some practical work will also be included.

Class Hour: To be arranged

Teaching: Seminars and occasional lectures and practicals

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

BL4259 Marine Mammals and Man

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2

Prerequisite: BL3318

Description: Marine mammals interact with human activities in a variety of ways and are frequently the focus of more general concerns about the health and exploitation of marine ecosystems. This module explores the impact of these activities on individuals and populations of seals and cetaceans, and *vice versa*. Most marine mammals species are long-lived and slow reproducing and the impacts of unmanaged human activities can be severe; a number of species or populations are threatened as a result. The module explores how best to provide robust scientific advice to inform conservation and management at local, national and international level.

Class Hour: To be arranged

Teaching: Seminars and occasional lectures and practicals

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 50%, Two Hour Examination = 50%

BL4260 Biological Oceanography

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2

Prerequisite: BL3318

Description: This module will provide primarily seminar-based instruction on the fundamentals of Biological Oceanography (BO). A few introductory lectures will focus on basic principles in BO and oceanography, including physical and geochemical principles as they apply to biological oceanography. Students will present seminars on particular focus areas within each lecture topic, based upon reading primary literature. BO is a broad field, so the module will provide an overview of the field with depth in a few chosen areas. At least one practical will be offered on the use of remote-sensing data for ocean observation, and we hope to develop a practical of zooplankton sampling. This module should coordinate especially well with marine acoustics and scientific diving.

Class Hour: To be arranged

Teaching: Seminars and occasional lectures and practicals

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 50%, Two Hour Examination = 50%

BL4265 Ecological Modelling

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2

Description: This module aims to give a broad overview of the concepts and fundamental achievements of ecological modelling. By the end of the module, students will understand the motivation and structure behind the statement of various models in the literature, have the terminology necessary to converse intelligibly with modellers and biometricians, and know the benefits and limitations of modelling in different areas of ecology. Topics include: basics of modelling methodology, individual-based modelling, population modelling, ecosystem modelling, and spatial modelling. Further grounding in these topics will be provided in computer-based practicals. Although the module is not equation-free, the emphasis is on concepts rather than mathematical technique. Therefore, the material assumes no more than the basic level of numeracy required for entry in a biology programme.

Class Hour: To be arranged

Teaching: Two seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 25%, Two Hour Examination = 75%

BL4266 Conservation Research Methods; Estimating Population Size

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Prerequisite: BL3309

Description: The conservation of animal and plant populations relies initially on information of population sizes and trends. This information can only be collected by fieldwork. This module teaches the basic field techniques that underpin the monitoring of populations. Each week the theory behind a different technique is introduced, then the technique is practiced in the field, and finally data collected by the technique are analysed and discussed in a workshop at the end of the week, so that a full understanding of a technique and its proper application is gained. The module ends with students carrying out a project applying and integrating the techniques they have learnt.

Class Hour: To be arranged

Teaching: Two seminars and occasional lectures and practicals.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

BL4267 Conservation Research Methods; Sampling Individuals and Communities

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2

Prerequisite: BL3309

Description: The conservation of animal and plant populations relies on unbiased information on individuals and communities. This information can only be collected by fieldwork that uses proper sampling methods. This course teaches basic field techniques that underpin unbiased sampling. Each week the theory behind a different technique is introduced, then the technique is taught and practiced in the field and finally data collected by the technique are analysed and discussed in a workshop, so that a full understanding of a technique and its proper application is gained. The module ends with students carrying out a project applying and integrating the techniques they have learnt.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminars and occasional lectures and practicals.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

BL4268 Conservation and Management of Biodiversity

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Prerequisite: BL3309

Description: This module will focus on the scientific problems associated with the conservation and sustainable use of animals and plants, and on the way in which scientific advice on these issues is provided. Initial lectures will cover sustainable development and the precautionary principle; the causes of extinction; the economics of conservation; management of exploitation; and estimating species richness. Then student-led seminars will cover a range of more specialist issues of current concern. Practical work on population viability analysis, classifying populations using the IUCN criteria, and species richness estimation may be included.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminars and occasional lectures and practicals.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

BL4269 Icelandic Ecology: Conservation and Sustainable Development

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Description: Students will visit three sites in Iceland and be introduced to aspects of terrestrial, freshwater and marine issues that are relevant to the status of Icelandic ecology and conservation. After introduction to the issues and regular discussion/dissemination groups, students will select and specialise in a particular area of research, during the visit to Iceland.

On return to St Andrews students will research the topic by the selective collation of general information over a broad background, selection of material to support further study, detailed research of historical and present day background of selected area, analysis of current status and critique of future management issues. This will result in a written report. Finally, the students will present their views and lead a group discussion seminar on the issues involved.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: One week fieldwork in June, then seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

Biology – Honours 2007/08 – December 2007

BL4270 Plant-environment Interactions

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2

Description: This module will provide an analysis of the ways in which plants interact with their physical, chemical and biological environments. This is a wide-ranging course which will bring together current knowledge of the physiological and molecular responses of plants within the wider context of how whole organisms and communities respond to the environment. Topics include: parasitism, plant pathogens and diseases, symbioses, plant stress responses, and human influences such as pollution, bioremediation and genetic modification.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 50%, Two Hour Examination = 50%

BL4271 Ecosystem Engineering and Niche Construction

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Description: This module will introduce students to the concept of ecosystem engineering and the state of knowledge concerning ecosystem function, and then develop this to consider an evolutionary framework through the theory of “Niche construction”. There will be two initial seminars, followed by a hands-on experimental programme demonstrating the effects of ecosystem engineering, then a workshop to plan an experimental investigation of ecosystem engineering activity. This will result in a short, joint, replicated and controlled experiment to examine the impact of ecosystem engineering on a target system (freshwater or marine), leading into workshops on the theoretical and analytical approach to niche construction, and a final series of seminars that introduce possible empirical approach to test the theories. Students will be encouraged to develop their own ideas and provide new potential examples of ecosystem engineering.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Seminars, workshops and practicals.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

BL4272 Molecular Ecology

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Description: This module will consider modern molecular approaches that are now extensively used in several key areas of ecology: conservation and population genetics, phylogeography, and ecological genetics; aspects of molecular adaptation; and phylogenetic and genealogical inference.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

BL4275 Evolution in Action

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Description: This module will focus on recent developments relating to evolutionary biology, placing particular emphasis on research related to medical or societal application or public policy. Examples of topics to be covered include: emergent diseases, biodiversity policy, conservation management, biological impacts of climate change, and public understanding of science.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

BL4276 Speciation

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Prerequisite: BL3307

Description: The module will focus on how species originate. After considering in some detail the thorny issue of defining and delimiting species, an analysis will be made of the process of species formation. This will involve examining species origins in sympatry (i.e. when a new species is formed in the same geographic locality as its progenitor), and in allopatry (when the new species originates in a location geographically removed from that of its progenitor).

The analysis will cover the roles of natural selection, sexual selection and drift in bringing about divergence and the evolution of reproductive isolation leading to speciation.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment =100%

BL4277 Plant Responses to their Environment

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Description: This module examines the ways in which plants interact with environmental variables, and how human beings influence these interactions. Examples of responses at the cellular and molecular level will be examined within the wider context of the response of the whole organism to different environmental conditions, and particular emphasis will be placed on formulation of hypotheses and on experimental methods. The aim is to provide the student with knowledge of fundamental plant processes and of how the environment influences plant growth in 'nature' and in agricultural systems.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Occasional lectures, tutorials and practicals.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 40%, Two Hour Examination = 60%

BL4280 Evolution and Human Behaviour

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Description: Evolutionary biologists, anthropologists and psychologists have taken evolutionary principles and used them to explain a range of human characteristics, such as homicide, religion and sex differences in behaviour. Other researchers are sceptical of these interpretations, and critical of the methods. Moreover, researchers disagree as to the best ways to use evolution to explore humanity, and a number of schools have emerged. This module will introduce and critically evaluate the main evolutionary approaches currently being used, including socio-biology, evolutionary psychology, behavioural ecology and gene-culture co-evolution.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

BL4281 Vocal learning in Animals

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Description: Learning to produce sounds is a particularly interesting subject as far as humans are concerned because it is such a notable feature of our own species. Why do we show it, and how did it evolve? As there is little evidence of it in any other primates we need to look further afield for clues. It is found in several other mammalian orders and in three orders of birds, and the evidence for it and nature of it will be examined in these examples. We will discuss why selection may have favoured it in each case. We will also consider vocal learning in a broader sense, including its use in animals that do not themselves produce sounds.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment =100%

Biology – Honours 2007/08 – December 2007

BL4282 Biology & Behaviour of Social Insects

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2

Description: This module will examine and compare the biology of the four main groups of social insects: termites, ants, wasps and bees. Sociality in other groups (aphids, beetles) will also be considered briefly. Topics will include the evolution of sociality, social organisation and social control systems, reproductive strategies, and diverse communication modes including pheromonal systems, acoustic systems, and 'bee dances'. Aspects of foraging behaviour and learning abilities will also be considered, particularly for ants (leaf cutter ants, army ants, slave-making ants) and for bees both eusocial and semi-social. There will be strong evolutionary, ecological and behavioural themes, and relevance also to conservation issues.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: One seminar

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 50%, Two Hour Examination = 50%

BL4283 Animal Welfare

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2

Description: This module will consider the welfare of animals from a number of perspectives. Are they conscious? Do they suffer? Does it matter? How can we measure their needs and preferences? How can we minimise any deleterious effects of keeping them? Seminar sessions will examine the issues raised by companion animals, by farm animals, by zoo animals and by laboratory animals. Legislation governing the treatment of animals will be considered, and whether this is adequate and reasonable. In the case of research, discussions will focus on the decision making process that should be used to decide whether or not a particular experiment should be carried out.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 50%, Two Hour Examination = 50%

BL4284 Breeding Systems

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2

Description: Studies of mating systems in animals are primarily concerned with how animal societies are structured in relation to sexual behaviour. In plants, where many organisms do not have separate males and females, the term refers to the degree to which individuals are self-compatible or the amount of out-crossing that occurs. The effects of breeding system on sexual selection and sexual conflict, together with the costs of inbreeding and the evolution of mating systems, are central concerns of this module.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 50%, Two Hour Examination = 50%

BL4285 Complex Systems in Animal Behaviour

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2

Description: Behaving animals form complex systems, and can create complicated and beautiful phenomena, such as flocks of birds, termite nests, and patterns of army ant swarms. This course will look at research that examines animal behaviour from a complex systems perspective, where analyses range from captive housing of entire bird flocks, computer simulation, and use of robots to interact with the animals. Introductory lectures will be followed by seminar-style discussion of the primary literature, computer practicals, and hands-on practicals where students will identify complex systems in animal behaviour around St Andrews.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Lectures, seminars and practicals

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 75%, Two Hour Examination = 25%

BL4290 Networks in Biology

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2

Description: What do spread of a disease, climate change, visual perception, and development of a sea urchin have in common? They are all involved with or impact biological networks. This module will investigate networks that exist in biological systems across various levels of biological organisation, covering molecular, neural, ecological, and social networks.

The techniques and theory of network analyses will be covered, as well as specific features of networks. Introductory lectures will be followed by seminar-style discussion of the primary literature, and computer-based practicals investigating network behaviour. Students will also participate in and analyse results of a social network experiment.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Lectures, seminars and practicals

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 75%, Two Hour Examination = 25%

BL4291 Science, Museums and the Public

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1 & 2 (taught twice)

Description: This module aims to examine how science in general, and natural history in particular, is presented to the public in a variety of locations. The module will commence with an introductory lecture on the history of British museums and collections. Students will then visit various museums and natural history collections in Scotland. At some of these locations Museum staff will talk about their work. After each visit students will illustrate and discuss the displays and compare what they have seen with their local collection, the Bell Pettigrew Museum of Natural History. The second half of the module will focus on producing a display on an aspect of Biology in the two temporary exhibition cases. This can include a powerpoint presentation or film on a DVD player.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Lectures, seminars and practicals

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

BL4292 History of Genetics and Evolution

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 2

Description: Over the past century and a half, biology has been dominated by the emergence and rise to prominence of two related fields – genetics and evolution. This module provides the opportunity to examine the development of these two subjects, via the life and work of key figures in these fields, and also to compare the way that biological science worked in the nineteenth century with the way it operates today. The course will start with two lectures on the history of Biology, and students will then read material on the life and times of four key individuals – Darwin, Mendel, Watson and Crick. In each case, both original documents and biographies will be considered, and the materials will then be discussed and compared in tutorials. Other key figures in the field will also be studied, and aberrations such as Francis Galton and eugenics, and T.D. Lysenko and Soviet genetics will be discussed.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminars and occasional lectures.

Assessment: Two Hour Examination = 100%

BL4293 Bioethics

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Description: The field of bioethics is rapidly expanding, as scientific discoveries push back boundaries and raise new questions and concerns, not just for the scientists involved, but for society as a whole. This module will begin by introducing the various schools of ethical thought used in considering bioethical dilemmas and will then move on to look at a number of traditional and emerging areas in bioethics, including topics such as research ethics, science in society, start of life/end of life issues, environmental ethics, genethics and neuroethics. Emphasis will be placed on the reading of key primary papers and case studies prior to each class, and informed discussion and debate within the teaching session will be encouraged.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminars and occasional practicals.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

Biology – Honours 2007/08 – December 2007

ID4001 Communication and Teaching in Science

Credits: 15.0 Semester: 1

Description: This module is based on the Undergraduate Ambassador Scheme launched in 2002. It provides final year students within the Faculty of Science with the opportunity to gain first hand experience of science education through a mentoring scheme with science teachers in local schools. Students will act initially as observers in the classroom and later as classroom assistants. With permission of the teacher-in-charge, students may also be given the opportunity to lead at least one lesson, or activity within a lesson, during their placement. This module will enable students to gain substantial experience of working in a challenging and unpredictable working environment, and of communicating scientific ideas at various different levels; and to gain a broad understanding of many of the key aspects of teaching science in schools. While of particular value to students aiming for a career in education, these core skills are equally important for any career that requires good communication.

Class Hour: Flexible

Teaching: Occasional tutorials and practicals.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%