

Sociality in Animals 001.2.3103 (3 credits)

Lecturer: Sofia Bouchebti

Course description:

The transition from solitary to social living is one of the most significant evolutionary steps. This course will cover fundamental aspects and key concepts of group living, as well as the mechanisms governing the evolution and maintenance of social behavior across the animal kingdom. This course is intended for students interested in behavioral ecology, animal behavior, and evolutionary biology.

Course structure:

3 hours of lecture per week, over one semester.

Course topics:

1. Introduction: Definition and classification of sociality
2. Invertebrate societies
3. Vertebrate societies
4. Benefits and costs of living in a group
5. Cooperation and conflicts
6. Group size and composition
7. Social behaviors
8. Evolution of sociality
9. Communication
10. Collective behavior and decision making
11. Social learning and culture
12. Neurophysiological bases of social behavior

Grade components:

Attendance and participation in class discussions	10%
Presentation of a selected topic	40%
Final home exam	50%