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BL4285 Complex Systems in Animal Behaviour

(BL4285 online module handbook version 45)

Credits: 15

Semester: 2

Module Organiser

Dr V Anne Smith
vas1@st-andrews.ac.uk
01334 463368

Pre-requisite Modules:

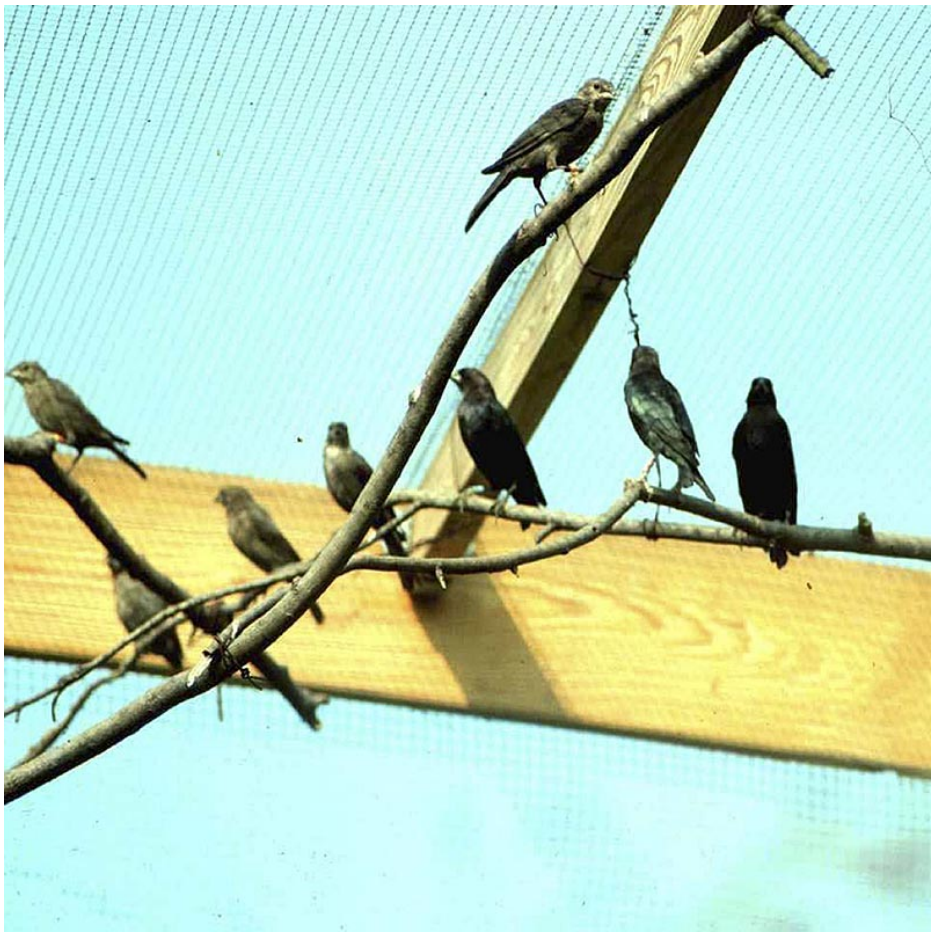
Permission of Biology Honours Adviser required

Anti-requisite Modules:

Post-requisite Modules:

Additional Module Information:

Please check MMS regularly for additional module information



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 in the world around them.

BL4285View content for BL4285 (2023/4) in the Module Management System (MMS)

View the current Biology Online Module Catalogue for BL4285

BL4285View BL4285 (2023/4) in the University of St Andrews Module Catalogue

Contents:

BL4285: Timetable

Legend (not all modules have every event type):

lecture	tutorial	workshop	practical	other

Semester 2: Week 1

DATE & TIME	VENUE	STAFF	EVENT
Tuesday 16-01-2024 12:00 to 13:00	Medical and Biological Sciences Building Biology Teaching Labs	**Dr V Anne Smith** -	Tutorial T1: **Intro to Module, Activities to go with Lecture material** 2023-4_BL4285_T1 Please view first 3 videos on Moodle beforehand, about 30 min total.
Friday 19-01-2024 12:00 to 13:00	Medical and Biological Sciences Building Biology Teaching Labs	**Dr V Anne Smith** -	Tutorial T2: **Activities to go with Lecture material** 2023-4_BL4285_T2 Please view next 3 videos on Moodlebeforehand, also about 30 min total.

Semester 2: Week 2

DATE & TIME	VENUE	STAFF	EVENT
Tuesday 23-01-2024 12:00 to 13:00	Dyers Brae Seminar Room	**Dr V Anne Smith** -	Other O1: **Student-led Discussion (Classic Papers)** 2023-4_BL4285_O1
Friday 26-01-2024 12:00 to 13:00	Dyers Brae Seminar Room	**Dr V Anne Smith** -	Other O2: **Student-led Discussion (Classic Papers)** 2023-4_BL4285_O2 Lunch orders for Week 5 due

Semester 2: Week 3

DATE & TIME	VENUE	STAFF	EVENT
Tuesday 30-01-2024 12:00 to 13:00	Dyers Brae Seminar Room	**Dr V Anne Smith** -	Other O3: **Student-led Discussion (Classic Papers)** 2023-4_BL4285_O3
Friday 02-02-2024 12:00 to 13:00	Dyers Brae Seminar Room	**Dr V Anne Smith** -	Other O4: **Student-led Discussion (Student-Chosen Papers)** 2023-4_BL4285_O4

Semester 2: Week 4

DATE & TIME	VENUE	STAFF	EVENT
Tuesday 06-02-2024 12:00 to 13:00	Dyers Brae Seminar Room	**Dr V Anne Smith** -	Other O5: **Student-led Discussion (Student-Chosen Papers)** 2023-4_BL4285_O5
Friday 09-02-2024 12:00 to 13:00	Dyers Brae Seminar Room	**Dr V Anne Smith** -	Other O6: **Student-led Discussion (Student-Chosen Papers)** 2023-4_BL4285_O6

Semester 2: Week 5

DATE & TIME	VENUE	STAFF	EVENT
Tuesday 13-02-2024 11:00 to 13:00	Medical and Biological Sciences Building Biology Teaching Labs	**Dr V Anne Smith** -	Practical P1: **Computer Practical Part 1** 2023-4_BL4285_P1
Wednesday 14-02-2024 12:00 to 13:00	Medical and Biological Sciences Building Biology Teaching Labs	**Dr V Anne Smith** -	Other O7: **Student-led Discussion (Student-Chosen Papers)** 2023-4_BL4285_O7
Wednesday 14-02-2024 13:00 to 14:00	Medical and Biological Sciences Building Biology Teaching Labs	-	Other O8: **Lunch** 2023-4_BL4285_O8 Lunch orders due end of Week 2
Wednesday 14-02-2024 14:00 to 16:00	Medical and Biological Sciences Building Biology Teaching Labs	**Dr V Anne Smith** -	Practical P2: **Computer Practical Part 2** 2023-4_BL4285_P2

Friday 16-02-2024 12:00 to 13:00	Dyers Brae Seminar Room	**Dr V Anne Smith** -	Other O9: **Student-led Discussion (Student-Chosen Papers)** 2023-4_BL4285_O9

Semester 2: Week 6

DATE & TIME	VENUE	STAFF	EVENT
Tuesday 20-02-2024 12:00 to 13:00	Dyers Brae Seminar Room	**Dr V Anne Smith** -	Other O10: **Student-led Discussion (Student-Chosen Papers)** 2023-4_BL4285_O10

Spring Break: 26-Feb-2024 to 01-Mar-2024

Semester 2: Week 7

DATE & TIME	VENUE	STAFF	EVENT
Tuesday 05-03-2024 12:00 to 13:00	Dyers Brae Seminar Room	**Dr V Anne Smith** -	Other O11: **Field Project Presentations** 2023-4_BL4285_O11
Friday 08-03-2024 12:00 to 13:00	Dyers Brae Seminar Room	**Dr V Anne Smith** -	Other O12: **Field Project Presentations if needed, or End-of-Module Prizes/Discussion** 2023-4_BL4285_O12

BL4285: Reading List

BL4285Click for BL4285 reading list

BL4285: Assessment

Coursework = 100%

BL4285View coursework assessment details for BL4285 (2023/4) in MMS

The following related information applies to all Biology modules:

School of Biology Marking Criteria:	SeeÂ JH booklet info (st-andrews.ac.uk)Â
Late submission of continuous assessment work:	All late submissions of coursework that do not require electronic submission should be made via the Biology Teaching Office, Level 2, BMS Building, North Haugh.
Exam details:	See School of Biology UG Handbook JH booklet info (st-andrews.ac.uk)Â : All Biology exams will be conducted online for 2022-23.
Exam timetable:	See Timetables - Exams - University of St Andrews (st-andrews.ac.uk)Â
Expected attendance:	SeeÂ JH booklet info (st-andrews.ac.uk) Â for detailed attendance requirements.
Good Academic Practice & Avoiding Academic Misconduct:	SeeÂ JH booklet info (st-andrews.ac.uk)
University Student Handbook:	University Student Handbook
School and University regulations in the School and University Undergraduate Handbook relating to absence reporting, penalties and rules for late submission of work, extensions for coursework, return of coursework, S-coding, good academic practice and Academic Alerts.:	JH booklet info (st-andrews.ac.uk) University Student Handbook

Who to ask

(Information in this section applies to all Biology Modules)

Before contacting staff, students should check the content of the Biology Undergraduate Handbook, the module handbook and specific task instructions.

Questions about	**Contact**
General teaching matters	Biology Teaching Office (bioteach@st-andrews.ac.uk)
Rescheduled or cancelled events	Check your University email
Lecture or practical content	The lecturer who presented the material
Completing assessed practical assignments	The lecturer who set the assignment
Completing assessments	Module Organiser (Dr V Anne Smith vas1@st-andrews.ac.uk)
Marking on continuous assessment	The Demonstrator or Module Organiser (Dr V Anne Smith vas1@st-andrews.ac.uk)
Marking on exams	Module Organiser (Dr V Anne Smith vas1@st-andrews.ac.uk)
Rearranging practical days	Module Organiser (Dr V Anne Smith vas1@st-andrews.ac.uk)
Absence and/or extensions	Module Organiser (Dr V Anne Smith vas1@st-andrews.ac.uk) **and** the Biology Teaching Office (bioteach@st-andrews.ac.uk)
Difficulties with academic progress which impact more than one module:	Year Coordinator See School of Biology UG Handbook for list: JH booklet info (st-andrews.ac.uk)
Overall performance, progress or future directions:	Advisor of Studies
Disability:	Disability Coordinator (biodisabilities@st-andrews.ac.uk)
For advice and support on any issue e.g. academic, financial, international, personal or health matters, or if you are unsure of who to go to for help:	Advice & Support Centre Address: 79 North Street, St Andrews Email: theasc@st-andrews.ac.uk Web: https://www.standrews.ac.uk/ask-a-question/ Tel: 01334 462020
University assistance with urgent matters out of office hours:	Tel: 01334 476161 Web: https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/students/advice/counselling/incrisis/

Biology Teaching Office:

We are happy to hear from you about teaching matters. The School of Biology Teaching Office is open Monday to Friday 09.00 - 13.00 and 14.00 - 17.00. School of Biology staff will respond to your emails during these hours. Our team will provide a response to you within three working days.

Biology Teaching Office (Level 2), University of St Andrews, Biomolecular Sciences Building, North Haugh, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9ST

Email: bioteach@st-andrews.ac.uk

Tel: 01334 46 3602 or 3566

BL4285: Contributing Staff

Dr V Anne Smith **(Module Organiser)**	Senior Lecturer	vas1@st-andrews.ac.uk
Dr V Anne Smith (Module Organiser)	Senior Lecturer	vas1@st-andrews.ac.uk

BL4285: Learning Outcomes

Students completing module BL4285 successfully should be able to:

- Identify properties of complex systems
- Assess whether and how a system of animal behaviour represents a complex system
- Understand complexity-based methods of studying animal behaviour
- Design experiments using complexity-based methods of studying animal behaviour
- Search and critique primary literature

BL4285: Acquired Skills

Practical Skills

Transferable Skills

- Group discussion - leading
- Group discussion - participating
- Journal club
- Short individual presentation on project idea (up to 15 min)
- "Short" practical write-up (e.g. completed worksheet)
- "Think piece"
- Handout (for presentation or poster)
- Critically evaluating sources/information
- Finding literature
- Computer programming
- Critiquing experimental design
- Designing experiments

Policies

(Information in this section applies to all Biology Modules)

- The procedures and regulations followed by the School of Biology are outlined in the University Handbook and in the School of Biology UG handbookÂ Â JH booklet info (st-andrews.ac.uk)Â
- All coursework associated with the module must be completed and submitted by its due date.
- Specific School regulations relating to absence reporting, penalties and rules for late submission of work, extensions for coursework, return of coursework, S-coding, Good Academic Practice and Academic Alert are stated in the School of Biology UG hand bookÂ JH booklet info (st-andrews.ac.uk)Â Â and students are required to carefully read these regulations.
- Students are also referred to the University Handbook, available at: http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studenthandbook/