## KentVision Code and title of the module

SACO5820 The Biology of Mammals: Comparative and Evolutionary Perspectives

## Division and School/Department or partner institution which will be responsible for management of the module

Division of Human and Social Sciences, School of Anthropology and Conservation

## The level of the module (Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 or Level 7)

Level 6

## The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents

15 credits (7.5 ECTS)

## Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern)

Autumn or Spring

## Prerequisite and co-requisite modules and/or any module restrictions

None

## The course(s) of study to which the module contributes

***Compulsory to the following courses:***

* BSc Anthropology (Biological pathway)

***Optional to the following courses:***

* BSc Biology
* BSc Human Biology and Behaviour
* BSc Wildlife Conservation

Also available as an elective module

## The intended subject specific learning outcomes. On successfully completing the module students will be able to:

8.1 Demonstrate knowledge of the characteristic adaptations, together with the diversity and unifying themes in form and function, of species belonging to the class Mammalia

8.2 Understand how evolutionary theory explains the diversity of animals and their adaptations with particular reference to the class Mammalia; understand evolution as both history and process

8.3 Critically evaluate the link between morphology and both phylogeny and ecology

8.4 Appreciate the value of a broad comparative approach in understanding diversities and commonalities between organisms and how this understanding in mammals provides a foundation for studies of human biology.

## The intended generic learning outcomes. On successfully completing the module students will be able to:

9.1 Think critically

9.2 Communicate information through the development of writing and analytical skills

9.3 Manage their time to facilitate study and learning

9.4 Organise information in a clear way.

## A synopsis of the curriculum

The biology of mammals, and our relationships with them—both direct and evolutionary—are often what sparks our interest in studying biology, ecology or conservation. Moreover, it is inescapable that humans are also mammals, and thus their biology is our biology. In this module, we explore the diversity of mammals with a particular emphasis on non-human primates, to better understand both this fascinating array of species, as well as ourselves. Taking an evolutionary and ecological perspective throughout, we explore mammalian anatomy and physiology, draw contrasts with other vertebrate groups, and explore the diversity of mammalian social systems. We also cover the process of natural selection, the nature of species, and how we classify these to make sense of biological diversity. This module engages students with primary literature, and with extensive opportunities for hands-on ‘experiential’ learning using our extensive skeletal collection in practical (lab) classes. It provides a fundamental comparative understanding of what it means to be a mammal, allowing students to place their other studies within this context, as well as establishing a foundation for further specialisation in mammalian (and human) biology.

## Reading list

The University is committed to ensuring that core reading materials are in accessible electronic format in line with the Kent Inclusive Practices.

The most up to date reading list for each module can be found on the university's [reading list pages](https://kent.rl.talis.com/index.html).

## Contact Hours

Private Study: 119

Contact Hours: 31

Total: 150

## Assessment methods

* 1. Main assessment methods

Practical Assessment, 50 minutes (50%)

Examination, 2 hours (50%)

13.2 Reassessment methods

Like for like

## Map of module learning outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to learning and teaching methods and methods of assessment (section 13)

**Module learning outcomes against learning and teaching methods:**

| **Module learning outcome** | **8.1** | **8.2** | **8.3** | **8.4** | **9.1** | **9.2** | **9.3** | **9.4** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Private Study | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Lectures | x | x | x | x | x | x |  | x |
| Practical classes | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |

**Module learning outcomes against assessment methods:**

| **Module learning outcome** | **8.1** | **8.2** | **8.3** | **8.4** | **9.1** | **9.2** | **9.3** | **9.4** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Practical Assessment | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Summer Exam | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |

## Inclusive module design

The Division recognises and has embedded the expectations of current equality legislation, by ensuring that the module is as accessible as possible by design. Additional alternative arrangements for students with Inclusive Learning Plans (ILPs)/declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the relevant policies and support services.

The inclusive practices in the guidance (see Annex B Appendix A) have been considered in order to support all students in the following areas:

a) Accessible resources and curriculum

b) Learning, teaching and assessment methods

## Campus(es) or centre(s) where module will be delivered

Canterbury

## Internationalisation

The subjects of this module—the non-human primates—are distributed across three continents between the tropics. The module is by its nature international in perspective, and pre-nation in that it considers primates across shifting land-masses over the last 65 million years.

**DIVISIONAL USE ONLY**

**Module record – all revisions must be recorded in the grid and full details of the change retained in the appropriate committee records.**

| Date approved | New/Major/Minor revision | Start date of delivery of (revised) version | Section revised (if applicable) | Impacts PLOs (Q6 & 7 cover sheet) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 18.11.22 | Major | September 2023 | 1, 7, 8, 10, 12 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |