



## GÖTEBORGS UNIVERSITET

### Evolutionary Behavioral Ecology – Book seminars, 8 hp

Course period: 2017-01 – 2017-04	Last day for application: 2016-01-10																																				
Course leader / Address for applications: Lotta Kvarnemo / lotta.kvarnemo@bioenv.gu.se																																					
Course description (Advertisement for Ph.D. students): <p>The course is based around the book "Evolutionary Behavioral Ecology" (ed: Westneat &amp; Fox 2010, Oxford University Press; 31 chapters, 641 pages).</p> <p>We will have eight discussion seminars. See below for suggested dates (to be decided among participants at the first meeting), between 13.00-16.00, in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor seminar room/"library", Zoology building, Dept of Biological and Environmental Sciences, Medicinaregatan 18A, Gothenburg.</p> <p>Everyone is expected to have read the 3-5 chapters before each meeting. Each seminar will be chaired by a PhD student, attended by a senior researcher and the chapters will be discussed jointly by all participants. In addition, each chapter should be summarized by one of the PhD students, in a <u>short</u> (5 min) introduction, with the aim to briefly sum up the content of the chapter and start off the discussion. This summary should be prepared before the seminar, preferably in a short powerpoint presentation.</p>																																					
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The course is worth 8 hp (4 hp literature points; 4 hp course points).																																					

Responsible department and other participation departments/organisations: Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences
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## GÖTEBORGS UNIVERSITET

Teachers: Lotta Kvarnemo, Donald Blomqvist, Ola Svensson, Mats Olsson, Jörgen Johnson, Staffan Andersson and Karin Hårding.
Examiner: Lotta Kvarnemo

Faculty of Science; Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences

### **Evolutionary Behavioral Ecology – Book seminars, 8 hp**

*Third cycle education*

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#### **1. Confirmation**

The syllabus was confirmed by the Head of the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, Gothenburg, 9 January 2017.

Disciplinary domain: Science

Department in charge: Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences

#### **2. Position in the educational system**

Elective course; third-cycle education.

#### **3. Entry requirements**

Admitted to third cycle education.

#### **4. Course content**

The course includes reading 3-5 chapters of Westneat & Fox, in preparation for each of eight discussion seminars, during which the content will be discussed among peers. It also includes training in chairing discussion. Finally, for each seminar, each PhD student is expected to choose one chapter to read a bit more carefully and present to the others in a 5 min presentation. Chapter presentations will be rotated, if there are more PhD students than chapters/seminar.

#### **5. Outcomes**



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After completion of the course the PhD student will have read and discussed the content of the book "Evolutionary Behavioral Ecology" together with other PhD students and senior researchers.

### 1. Knowledge and understanding

- good understanding of central theories in the field of evolutionary behavioral ecology, including for example decision making, foraging theory, life history, social behavior, reproductive behavior and speciation.

### 2. Skills and abilities

- critical reading of scientific literature  
- critical discussion of the core topics together with peers  
- oral presentation of topics chosen from the book  
- providing constructive criticism and feedback  
- chairing of discussion

### 3. Judgement and approach

- reading the chapters in the book, in preparation for each seminar  
- participation and interaction in the course

## 6. Required reading

Evolutionary Behavioral Ecology (2010). Westneat & Fox, Oxford University Press, Oxford.

## 7. Assessment

Students will be given 8 hp if they have participated fully in the course: Having read the chapters, attended the seminars, prepared presentations of chosen chapters, and chaired (or co-chaired, if many students) one meeting. Incomplete attendance can after discussion with course leader be awarded with fewer credits (1 hp per attended seminar).

## 8. Grading scale

The grading scale comprises Fail, (U), Pass (G)

## 9. Course Evaluation

The course evaluation is carried out together with the PhD students at the end of the course, and is followed by an individual, anonymous survey. The results and possible changes in the course will be shared with the students who participated in the evaluation and to those who are beginning the course.

## 10. Language of instruction

The language of instruction is English.