



Behavioral Biology

Participating Institutions (core- & advanced-modules)

Georg August University Göttingen



Johann-Friedrich-Blumenbach-Institute for Zoology and Anthropology

- Sociobiology/Anthropology (Kappeler)
- Primate Cognition (Fischer)
- Behavioral Ecology (Ostner)

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German Primate Center



- Behavioral Ecology/Sociobiology (Kappeler)
- Cognitive Ethology (Fischer)
- Primate Social Evolution (Ostner)
- Evolutionary Endocrinology (Behringer)
- Primate Genetics (Walter)
- Cognitive Neurosciences (Treue)
- Neurobiology (Scherberger)

Focus of core research groups

- Evolution of social behavior, social cognition, sexual selection mainly in nonhuman primates
- Broad range from behavioral ecology, sociobiology (functions of behavior) to cognition and physiology (mechanisms)
- Link to Biodiversity study programs
- Field research in Madagascar, Senegal and Thailand
- Research on managed primate population (France, Germany) and captive primates at the DPZ

check out websites for more
detailed information





GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT-GÖTTINGEN

Key Modules in Behavioral Biology

Core
Sem. 1

Introduction to behavioral biology
[MBio 306]

Theory
Basic concepts
Overview of methods

Key competence in statistics [MBio 358]

Core
Semester 2

Social Behavior & Communication
[MBio 308]

Two-week excursion to
study Barbary macaques
in Germany or France

Behavioral Biology
[MBio 307]

Practical in Göttingen
or Madagascar

Advanced
Semester 3

Social Behavior, Communication &
Cognition
[MBio 318]

Population and Behavioral Biology
[MBio 317]

Systemic Neurobiology
[MBio 316]

Join a lab for a seven-
week research
internship (two or
three)

Project
Sem. 3

Scientific Project Management
(MBio 331)

Prepare proposal for
Msc thesis

Thesis
Sem. 4

Master thesis in one of the associated
research groups

Conduct Msc thesis



The core modules

M.Bio.308:

**Social Behavior and
Communication**

Current debates in BB

M.Bio.307:

Behavioral Biology

Advanced topics of
Behavioral Biology

M.Bio.306*: Introduction to Behavioral Biology

Fundamental topics of Behavioral Biology

* Obligatory for Master in BB: 306 + 307 or 308

Introduction to behavioral biology [M.Bio.306]

Theory

Basic concepts

Overview of methods

Lecture: Ostner, Schülke

Practical: Behringer, Ostner,
Roos, Schülke

Seminar: Schülke, Kappeler



Core

Semester 1

19.01. – 20.02.2025

(16+ students)

Coordination:
Schülke

This core module is obligatory

The 3X6 series

M.Bio.366: Lecture

M.Bio.346: Lecture + Seminar

M.Bio.306: Lecture + Seminar + Practical

Coordination: Oliver Schülke oschuel@gwdg.de

Location: DPZ (Kellnerweg 4): old LH=lecture hall NW end of old
 DPZ (Kellnerweg 4): LAB= hormone or genetics lab / MFG-SR=5
 Uni K6 (Kellnerweg 6): SR= seminar room 2.111
 ENI (Grisebachstr. 5)

Just as an example – dates / details will change!

Week 1:	Mo, 13.01.	Di, 14.01.	Mi, 15.01.	Do, 16.01.	Fr,17.01.
9:15-10:00	prep seminar	prep seminar	prep seminar	prep seminar	prep seminar
10:15-11:45	lecture (JO/OS) old LH				
12:00-12:45					
BREAK					
13:15-16:45	Observation Methods (OS) SR	Observation Methods (OS) SR	Acoustic Communication (KW) SR	Acoustic Communication (KW) SR	
Week 2:	Mo, 20.01.	Di, 21.01.	Mi, 22.01.	Do, 23.01.	Fr, 24.01.
9:15-10:00	prep seminar	prep seminar	prep seminar	prep seminar	
10:15-11:45	lecture (JO) old LH				seminar (OS + PMK) SR & MFG-SR >13:45
12:00-12:45					
BREAK					
13:15-16:45	Genetics (group 1) /Hormones (group 2) /(CR/JO) LAB	Genetics (group 1) /Hormones (group 2) /(CR/JO) LAB	Genetics (group 1) /Hormones (group 2) /(CR/JO) LAB	Genetics (group 1) /Hormones (group 2) /(CR/JO) LAB	
Week 3:	Mo, 27.01.	Di, 28.01.	Mi, 29.01.	Do, 30.01.	Fr, 31.01.
9:15-10:00	prep seminar	prep seminar	prep seminar	prep seminar	
10:15-11:45	lecture (JO) old LH				seminar (OS + PMK) SR & MFG-SR >13:45
12:00-12:45					
BREAK					
13:15-16:45	Eye-tracking (group1) ENI (CS)	Learning (TB) SR	Learning (TB) SR	Learning (TB) SR	
Week 4:	Mo, 03.02.	Di, 04.02.	Mi, 05.02.	Do, 06.02.	Fr, 07.02.
9:15-10:00	prep seminar	prep seminar	prep seminar	prep seminar	
10:15-11:45	lecture (OS) old LH				seminar (OS + PMK)

Statistics for Biology using R [M.Bio.001]

Understanding of basic statistical concepts
+ hands-on experience in R

(Wibral)

weekly lecture and weekly exercise

strongly recommended!!!

Each winter semester, continuous semester
course

Key competence

Semester 1

Coordination: Wibral



Social behavior and communication [M.Bio.308]

Five week module with two-week excursion to
Rocamadour, France (Fischer)

Aim: design and carry out own research project on
Barbary macaques

Core

Semester 2

Middle block

(12 students)

Coordination: Fischer



(One of the advanced modules (M.Bio. 307 or 308) is obligatory, the other one is recommended)

Behavioral biology [M.Bio.307]

Five week module: Fichtel, Kappeler

Lecture: advanced topics

Seminar: design your study

Practical: Göttingen or Madagascar (Sep)



Core

Semester 2

Last block
and practical in Sept

(12 students)
Coordination: Fichtel

(One of the advanced modules (M.Bio. 307 or 308) is obligatory, the other one is recommended)

2 out of 3 Advanced modules (Lab rotations)

- Population and behavioral biology [M.Bio 317]
- Social behavior, communication and cognition [M.Bio 318]
- Your choice... e.g. Systems Neuroscience [M.Bio 316]



Scientific project management [M.Bio.331]

Attend colloquia

Project

Prepare proposal for thesis

Semester 3

(32 students)



MASTER THESIS

Conduct master thesis

(in the main focus of one of the completed advanced modules)

Thesis

Semester 4

26 weeks

