



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

POULTRY BEHAVIOR - 71168

Last update 16-02-2019

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Animal & Veterinary Science

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Rehovot

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Gadi Gvaryahu

Coordinator Email: 12heshvan@gmail.com

Coordinator Office Hours:

Teaching Staff:

Dr.

Course/Module description:

This course will concentrate on the relationship between poultry behavior, management, welfare and the farm profit . In addition the domestication process regarding both precocial and altricial birds' behavior will be investigated. Multiple examples will be offered to demonstrate the importance of expanding our knowledge with regard to animal behavior in general, and birds and poultry in particular, in order to improve the welfare of chickens kept in industrial facilities. Some of the topics that we will cover include:

the vocal connection between embryos in incubators and the influence on the synchronization of the hatching process; the phenomenon of filial imprinting of precocial chicks and its effect on chick husbandry; the effect of the scent of pyrazine on learning and memory among domestic chickens. In addition we will discuss the sexual behavior, brooding, laying, and feeding behavior of brooding flocks

Farm animals are raised in very crowded environments with limited stimuli and we will discuss: 1.The connection between the welfare of the birds and what is profitable for the farmer 2. The influence of environmental enrichment via activating devices, music, curiosity, and play on chicks in commercial farms. Finally, we will ask whether domesticated chickens, having been cultivated and undergone selective breeding are able to learn, habituate and remember. What complex learning techniques are chickens actually able to develop?

Course/Module aims:

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- 1. To recognize and identify typical behaviors of poultry, and to learn how to use them as a way to measure their welfare.*
- 2. To recognize and be able to explain the connection between the domestication process of precocial birds and their behaviors.*
- 3. To understand and research the connection between poultry behavior, welfare and the profit of the chicken farm.*
- 4.To explain and demonstrate how to improve and increase husbandry efficiency while deepening knowledge of animal behavior.*

Attendance requirements(%):

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:

1. Introduction: The connection between farm animal behavior and the poultry industry.
2. Domestication and behavior.
3. Senses and communication
4. Learning
5. Feeding Behavior
6. Imprinting
7. Sexual imprinting
8. Mating behavior
9. Nesting and incubation
10. Environmental enrichment
11. Movement, use of space, activity and territory.
12. Social recognition and communication
13. Poultry welfare

Required Reading:

חומר מומלץ לקריאה.

חומר חובה יועבר במהלך הקורס.

1. Appleby, M.C., Mench, J.A., Olsson, I. A. S., Hughes, B.O. 2011. Animal Welfare 2nd Edition, Cambridge University Press.
2. Farner, D.S., King, J.R., Parkes, K.C. 1975. Avian Biology, Vol. V. (pp. 391-395) Academic Press, Inc.
3. ענת ברנע 2004 נושאים בהתנהגות בעלי-חיים. יחידה 2. אונטוגנזה של התנהגות ולמידה האוניברסיטה הפתוחה.
4. Alcock, J. 2013 Animal Behavior. 10th Edition Sinauer Associates, Inc.
5. Grandin T. 2010. Improving Animal Welfare: A Practical Approach. CAB International.
6. Beaver, B. V. 1994. The Veterinarians Encyclopedia of Animal Behavior. Iowa State University Press.
7. Sagedal, C. 2017 Assessment of Boxes as a Source of Environmental Enrichment for Broiler Chickens. Masters Thesis. Norwegian University of Life Sciences

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 50 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 0 %

Project work 30 %

Assignments 0 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 20 %

Active Participation

Additional information: