

BIOS1501 Australia's Unique and Deadly Animals and Plants

Overview

Course Code*	BIOS1501
Course Name*	Australia's Unique and Deadly Animals and Plants
Course Name - SiMs*	Australia's Most Deadly
Owning Faculty*	Faculty of Science
Owning Academic Unit*	School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences
Administrative Campus*	Sydney
Units of Credit*	6
Grading Basis*	Standard UNSW grades
Academic Calendar Type*	3+
Career*	Undergraduate

Academic Details

Course Description for Handbook*

The Australian fauna and flora evolved during a long period of isolation from the biota of other continents. For that reason, many of the animals and plants of Australia are unique because evolution has taken an alternative direction. A world renowned and distinctive aspect of Australia is the large number of dangerous animals, particularly, venomous animals. Even many plants in Australia are venomous and have a deadly sting. The Australian environment provides many deadly challenges to its visitors. However, aside from simply having a reputation as being a dangerous place the characteristics which make the Australian flora and fauna so distinctive and the reasons why it is so distinctive are poorly understood by most people.

In this course students will learn about how evolutionary isolation has made the Australian fauna and flora so distinct. Along the way students will learn about the deadly animals and plants of Australia and how to identify them. Students will also learn about why this long period of isolation has made the Australian fauna so vulnerable to the threats posed by introduced species. This course will involve some day trip excursions and will incur a small cost to students (approximately \$100).

Field of Education (Broad)*	010000 Natural and Physical Sciences
Field of Education (Narrow)*	010900 Biological Sciences
Field of Education (Detailed)*	000000 Not Applicable

Level: Level 1

Teaching Strategies and Rationale

Australian native animals and plants are unique and remarkably interesting, and Australia's biota has long been a focus of international researchers and amateur naturalists. In this course, we will explore perhaps the single aspect that has focused the attention of the naturalists of the world on Australia, its unique and sometimes deadly creatures. Researchers within the School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences have extensive research experience and expertise on Australia's unique and deadly organisms including reptiles and snakes, spiders, mammals, fish, sharks, jellyfish, and even plants. We will present this course as a series of topics that focus on these major taxa, each taught by an academic with expertise on that taxa. The course rationale is to provide a diverse range of international and local students a foundation of how the origin of biological diversity in Australia, and why so many Australian organisms are so deadly.

Course Aims

This course will give students an introduction to the diversity of, and adaptations expressed by Australia's unique and sometimes deadly plants and animals. Students will explore why the biota of Australia is so unique, the consequences of the interactions between humans and deadly animals, and the conservation challenges we face.

Delivery Attributes: General Education

Course Properties

Course Type: Award course

Course Attributes: Introductory Course

Repeat for Credit: No

Delivery

Delivery Variations

Delivery Name	Delivery Mode	Delivery Format
BLENDED-ST	Blended in-person / online	Standard (usually weekly or fortnightly)

Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcomes

Code	Description
CLO1	Acquire knowledge of the origin and maintenance of the diversity of unique and dangerous organisms in Australia.
CLO2	Develop an understanding of how deadly organisms in Australia interact with humans, and the consequences of these interactions.
CLO3	Demonstrate an understanding of the unique evolutionary history of the flora and Fauna of Australia and challenges to their conservation.
CLO4	Recognise the fundamental adaptations of Australia's deadliest animals.

Assessments

Assessment Type	Assessment Name	Weighting (%)
Test	Early term test	10
Assignment	Deadly seas assignment	20
Assignment	Deadly land assignment	20
Test	Final exam	50

Other Information for Handbook

Key Search Terms: Biological Science, Biology, Australian native animals, Australian native plants, Evolutionary history of Australia, Deadly animals

Links to Course Outline

Title	URL
BIOS1501 Course Outline	https://www.bees.unsw.edu.au/