

# Syllabus

for course at advanced level

**Plant Ecology and Plant-Animal Interactions**  
**Växtekologi och växt-djurinteraktioner**

**7.5 Higher Education**  
**Credits**  
**7.5 ECTS credits**

<b>Course code:</b>	BL8042
<b>Valid from:</b>	Autumn 2010
<b>Date of approval:</b>	2010-03-15
<b>Department</b>	Department of Biology Education
<b>Main field:</b>	Biology
<b>Specialisation:</b>	A1N - Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

## Decision

This syllabus has been approved by the Board of the Faculty of Science at Stockholm University.

## Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Admittance to the course requires knowledge equivalent to Ecology II 15 credits or Evolution and biodiversity 15 credits. (Three credits corresponds to approximately two weeks full-time studies). Swedish upper secondary school course English B or equivalent or one of the following tests. Cambridge CPE och CAE: Pass. IELTS : 6.0 (with no part of the test below 5.0). TOEFL (paper based): 550 (with minimum grade 4 on the written test part). TOEFL (computer based): 213. TOEFL (internet based): 79.

## Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
8042	Plant Ecology and Plant-Animal Interactions	7.5

## Course content

The course covers the following subjects: • demography and dynamics of plant populations • life history theory, reproductive systems and reproductive biology in plants • ecology and evolution of interactions, such as pollination, herbivory, animal dispersal and mycorrhiza, as well as how these interactions influence plant populations and plant communities • co-evolution between plants and animals, from both a micro- and macroevolutionary perspective • diversity and biogeography of plants • conservation biology of plants and plant-animal interactions.

## Learning outcomes

It is expected that the student after taking the course will be able to: explain patterns and processes at the levels of plant individuals, populations, communities and ecosystems • explain how plant-animal interactions influence the interacting organisms • use tools as matrix models to analyse the temporal and spatial dynamics of plants • explain how co-evolutionary processes influence trait evolution in plants and animals • provide an synoptic ecological description of the vegetation of the earth • analyse conservation issues involving plants and plant-animal interactions

## Education

The education consists of lectures, seminars, exercises and individual work.

Participation in seminars, exercises and group education associated with this is compulsory. An examiner may rule that a student is not obliged to participate in certain compulsory education if there are special grounds for

this after consultation with the relevant teacher.

### **Forms of examination**

a. Examination for the course is in the following manner: measurement of knowledge takes place through: Written or oral examination and written and/or oral presentations.

b. Grading is carried out according to a 7-point scale related to learning objectives:

A = Excellent

B = Very Good

C = Good

D = Satisfactory

E = Sufficient

F<sub>x</sub> = Fail

F = Fail

c. Grading criteria for the course will be distributed at the start of the course.

d. A minimum grade of E is required to pass the course, together with:

- participation in all compulsory education

e. Students who fail to achieve a pass grade in an ordinary examination have the right to take at least further four examinations, as long as the course is given. The term “examination” here is used to denote also other compulsory elements of the course. Students who have achieved a pass grade on an examination may not retake this examination in order to attempt to achieve a higher grade. Students who have failed to reach a pass grade on two occasions have the right to request that a different teacher be appointed to set the grade of the course. A request for such appointment must be sent to the departmental board.

### **Interim**

Students may request that the examination is carried out in accordance with this syllabus even after it has ceased to apply. This right is limited, however, to a maximum of three occasions during a two-year-period after the end of giving the course. A request for such examination must be sent to the departmental board.

### **Limitations**

The course can not be included in a degree together with the courses Plant Ecology 7,5 hp (BI8010) and Plant-Animal Interactions 7,5 BL8009) or the equivalents.

### **Misc**

The course is a component of the Master's Programme in Biology and it can also be taken as an individual course.

### **Required reading**

Course literature is decided by the departmental board and is described in an appendix to the syllabus.