

# Syllabus

for course at advanced level

**Plant diversity and evolution - a global perspective**  
**Växternas diversitet och evolution - ett globalt perspektiv**

**15.0 Higher Education Credits**  
**15.0 ECTS credits**

<b>Course code:</b>	BL7032
<b>Valid from:</b>	Spring 2012
<b>Date of approval:</b>	2011-10-10
<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 Cell and Molecular Biology 15 credits, Diversity and Phylogeny of Organisms 15 credits, Physiology 15 credits and Ecology, Floristics and Faunistics 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
7032	Plant diversity and evolution - a global perspective	15
7A32	Theory	13.5
7B32	Excursion	1.5

## Course content

The course covers the global diversity of plants, from an evolutionary and phylogenetic perspective. Theoretical and practical studies of plant morphology and taxonomy as well as plant evolution, global distribution patterns and how these change over time. The students also do an individual project related to modern research in plant systematics, and a week's excursion.

b. The course includes the following elements: 1. Theory 13,5 hp 2. Excursion 1,5 hp.

## Learning outcomes

It is expected that the student after taking the course will be able to:

- show overall understanding of plant diversity and distribution, and how these changed in a geological time

scale.

- identify and describe plant morphology and anatomy from an evolutionary and taxonomic perspective
- perform botanical field work and data collection
- demonstrate basic knowledge of the taxonomy and nomenclature
- plan and carry out a small project and present the results in the form of a scientific text and an oral presentation
- critically review and discuss scientific texts.
- demonstrate an understanding of terrestrial plants role in the global and local ecosystem

### **Education**

The education consists of lectures, laboratory exercises, study visits, project work and an excursion. Participation in laboratory exercises, study visits, oral presentation, excursion 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 for element I takes place through: written examination.

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
- Fx = 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:

- approved element II
- approved laboratory exercises and project work
- 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.

f. Students awarded the grade Fx are given the opportunity to improve their grade to E. The examiner decides the supplementary assignments to be performed and the pass mark criteria. The supplementary assignments will take place before the next examination session.

### **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 course Plant Systematics 15 hp (BL7020) or the equivalent.

### **Misc**

The course may include compulsory elements in field, which may entail additional cost for the student. 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.