

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Animal Diversity - Vertebrates

Djurens mångfald - Rygggradsdjur

10.0 Higher Education

Credits

10.0 ECTS credits

Course code:	BL7034
Valid from:	Autumn 2012
Date of approval:	2012-01-16
Department	Department of Biology Education
Main field:	Biology
Specialisation:	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 a Bachelor's degree in Biology 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. and additionally 30 credits advanced courses in Biology.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
7034	Animal Diversity - Vertebrates	10

Course content

The course covers:

- vertebrate diversity and evolution (emergence, micro-/macroevolution, extinctions and adaptive radiation) emphasizing recent systematic research and methodology.
- systematic overview of extinct and extant vertebrates.

Learning outcomes

It is expected that the student after taking the course will:

- be able to describe vertebrate evolution and phylogeny,
- be familiar with the use of tools for systematic analysis of vertebrates at different taxonomic levels,
- be familiar with aims and methods of vertebrate systematics, thereby being able to explain the relationship between evolutionary processes and biogeography within the group.

Education

The education consists of internet-based lectures based on the course homepage and discussion groups on the course online forum. Active participation in group discussions as well as 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 examination. If the instruction is in English, the examination may also be conducted in English.

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 submitted work

- participation in all compulsory education

e. Students who fail an ordinary examination are entitled to sit additional examinations as long as the course is offered. There is no restriction on the number of examinations. Examinations also include other obligatory elements of the course. Students who have passed an examination may not resit it in order to achieve a higher grade. Students who have failed on two occasions are entitled to request the appointment of a different examiner for the next examination. Any such request must be made to the departmental board.

The course has at least two examinations (if required: for each element) for each academic year in the years in which instruction is provided. Intervening years include at least one examination.

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.

Misc

The course is a component of the Nordic Master's Programme in Biodiversity and Systematics, 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.