

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Curation and Biodiversity Informatics

Samlingsvård och biodiversitetsinformatik

5.0 Higher Education

Credits

5.0 ECTS credits

Course code:	BL7035
Valid from:	Autumn 2012
Date of approval:	2012-01-17
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
7035	Curation and Biodiversity Informatics	5

Course content

The course covers:

- scientific collections (contents, structure, history).
- observational databases (contents, structure, history).
- curation (dry and fluid objects, collection care, pest prevention, environmental factors affecting collections, collection storage).
- loans for scientific purpose.
- digital registry and imaging.
- database design and structure.
- biodiversity informatics (data capture, database handling, use of biodiversity informatics resources).

Learning outcomes

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

- be able to describe aims and methods for the establishment and curation of scientific collections and observational databases,
- be familiar with principles and methods for digitization of collection and observational data,
- be familiar with the major scientific collections and observational databases of the world,
- be familiar with the major biodiversity informatics initiatives of the world,
- be able to use existing tools for taxonomic, systematic, and ecological analysis of information retrieved from

scientific collections and databases.

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.