

# Syllabus

for course at advanced level

**Interactions in Ecological Communities**

**Interaktioner i ekologiska samhällen**

**15.0 Higher Education**

**Credits**

**15.0 ECTS credits**

<b>Course code:</b>	BL7042
<b>Valid from:</b>	Autumn 2015
<b>Date of approval:</b>	2015-01-19
<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 (BL5005) or Evolution and biodiversity 15 credits (BL5006). (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
7A42	Theory	10
7B42	Project	5

## Course content

The course covers the major theoretical and practical aspects of animal cognition. We will define what animal cognition is and how the subject has changed over the last decades to become one of the most important fields within ethology, psychology, ecology and evolutionary biology. Lectures will provide careful examination of animal communication and language, learning, social learning, memory, neurophysiology, the practical study of cognition and learning, and the link between ecology and cognition from an evolutionary viewpoint.

## Learning outcomes

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

- give an account of the major theories concerning animal cognition.
- give an account of how cognition is a fundamental aspect of adaptations to the physical and social environment.
- formulate a relevant hypothesis concerning animal cognition and plan an empirical study to test the hypothesis.

## Education

The education consists of lectures, group work and seminars

Participation in group work, seminars 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 examination and written as well as oral presentation.

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 and 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 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. There is no facility to improve the grade Fx to a pass grade in this course.

### **Interim**

Students may request that the examination be conducted in accordance with this course plan even after it has ceased to be valid. However, this may not take place more than three times over a two year period after course instruction has ended. Requests must be made to the departmental board. The provision also applies in the case of revisions to the course plan.

### **Misc**

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

### **Required reading**

Course literature is decided by the departmental board and described thereafter in an appendix to the course plan.