

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Interactions in Ecological Communities

Interaktioner i ekologiska samhällen

15.0 Higher Education

Credits

15.0 ECTS credits

Course code:	BL7042
Valid from:	Spring 2016
Date of approval:	2015-01-19
Changed:	2023-11-21
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 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
7C42	Theory	7.5
7D42	Project	7.5

Course content

a. The course covers the following subjects: * ecology, diversity, biogeography and natural history of interactions, including plant-herbivore, plant-pollinator, plant-fungi/microbe and predator prey interactions * interactions, co-evolutionary dynamics and trait evolution, from both a micro- and macro-evolutionary perspective * interactions, life histories and reproductive systems * interactions and population dynamics * spatial dynamics of interactions * interactions and community structure * conservation biology and interactions
* food webs.

b. The course includes the following elements: 1. Theory 7,5 hp. 2. Project 7,5 hp.

Learning outcomes

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

- * explain how different types of interactions are associated with patterns and processes at the levels of individuals, populations and communities
- * explain how co-evolutionary processes can influence trait evolution in interacting organisms
- * analyse conservation issues involving interactions

Education

The education consists of lectures, seminars and exercises.

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 for element 1 takes place through: Written examination and for element 2 through: Written and oral presentations.

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 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 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 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 several Masters' Programme in Biology, 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.