

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Conservation of Populations
Bevarande av populationer

15.0 Higher Education
Credits
15.0 ECTS credits

Course code:	BL8057
Valid from:	Autumn 2015
Date of approval:	2015-08-21
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 hp. (Three credits corresponds to approximately two weeks full-time studies). Swedish upper secondary school course English B/English 6 or equivalent.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
MOM1	Theory	12
MOM2	Essay	3

Course content

a. The course gives basic knowledge in population ecology of plants and animals, with an applied perspective and particular focus on conservation of declining populations. The course covers the human impact on diversity in a longer perspective, for example climate and environmental changes. Application of models to conservation problems, eg., viability analysis and management of populations. Population dynamics in theory and practice: population growth, demography, density-dependent processes and species interactions and the role of spatial and age structure for the dynamics and abundance of populations.

Typical problems for small and declining populations, theories for declining and small populations including genetic variation, adaptation, reaction norms and plasticity in relation to conservation problems.

b. The course includes the following elements: 1. Theory 12 hp, 2. Essay 3 hp.

Learning outcomes

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

- explain how stochastic and deterministic processes affect population dynamics of plants and animals
- show basic theoretical knowledge in conservation ecological and demographic processes
- show theoretical and practical insight in problems of conservation ecology, for example how climate and environmental changes as well as types of management actions affects population dynamics and survival, and show experience of model based analyses of different conservation ecological processes.

Education

The education consists of lectures, seminars, computer exercises, case studies and group exercises.

Participation in seminars, computer exercises, case studies and group exercises 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 as well as 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, together with:

• 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 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 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 only for element 2. 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. The provision also applies in the case of revisions to the course plan

Limitations

The course can not be included in a degree together with the courses Theoretical Population Biology, 10 p (BI3400), Theoretical Population Biology 7,5 hp (BL7023), theoretical Population Biology 15 hp (BL7017), Conservation Ecology 7,5 hp (BL8012 or Conservation Ecology 15 hp (BL8037).

Misc

The course is a component of the Master's Programme in Biology and in Ecology and Biodiversity 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.