

Syllabus

for course at first level

Sensory Biology
Sinnesbiologi

**15.0 Higher Education
Credits**
15.0 ECTS credits

Course code:	BL5030
Valid from:	Autumn 2019
Date of approval:	2023-11-21
Department	Department of Biology Education
Main field:	Biology
Specialisation:	G2F - First cycle, has at least 60 credits in 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

Admission to the course requires knowledge equivalent to 60 credits in Biology including Physiology 15 credits (BL2016) and Cell- and molecular biology 15 credits (BL2018).

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
HELA	Sensory Biology	15

Course content

The theoretical part of the course deals with the senses and sensory organs of different groups of animals. Everything from the physical properties of stimuli, the molecular functions of the sense organs, the brain's coding of stimuli to how animals use the senses for behavior, communication and navigation are treated. Great emphasis is placed on comparisons between different groups of animals and the evolution and development of the sense organs. Laboratory work includes sensory physiological and psychophysical studies.

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to:

- describe the anatomy and function of the sense organs and the information processing in the nervous system in different animal groups
- explain the importance of the senses for animal behavior, communication and navigation
- make logical arguments about the relationship between adaptations in different sensory systems and the animals' lifestyle and environment
- master basic psychophysiological techniques

Education

Instruction consists of lectures, group teaching, laboratory work, project work and demonstrations. Participation in group teaching, laboratory work, project work and demonstrations and any associated

integrated instruction is compulsory. In the event of special circumstances, the examiner may, after consultation with the teacher concerned, grant a student exemption from the obligation to participate in certain compulsory instruction.

Forms of examination

a. The course is examined as follows: Knowledge assessment takes the form of written tests as well as written and oral presentations.

If the instruction is in English, the examination may also be conducted in English.

b. Grades will be set according to a seven-point scale related to the learning objectives of the course:

A = Excellent

B = Very Good

C = Good

D = Satisfactory

E = Adequate

Fx = Fail, some additional work required

F = Fail, much additional work required

c. The grading criteria will be distributed at the beginning of the course.

d. In order to pass the course, students must receive a passing grade on all course units and participate in all mandatory instruction.

e. Students who receive a failing grade on a regular examination are allowed to retake the examination as long as the course is still provided. The number of examination opportunities is not limited. Other mandatory course elements are equated with examinations. A student who has received a passing grade on an examination may not retake the examination to attain a higher grade. A student who has failed the same examination twice is entitled to have another examiner appointed, unless there are special reasons to the contrary. Such requests should be made to the department board.

The course includes at least two examination opportunities per year when the course is given. At least one examination opportunity will be offered during a year when the course is not given.

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 (and the revisions of the course literature).

Misc

The course may contain compulsory parts in the field that entail certain costs for the student. The course is part of Bachelor's programme in biology and molecular biology but can also be read as a separate course.

Required reading

The course literature is decided by the department board and published on the course page in the course catalogue at least two months before the start of the course.