

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Cultural evolution: theories and observations

Kulturell evolution: teorier och observationer

7.5 Higher Education

Credits

7.5 ECTS credits

Course code:	BL7058
Valid from:	Autumn 2020
Date of approval:	2020-03-09
Department	Department of Biology Education
Subject	Biology
Specialisation:	A1N - Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Decision

This course syllabus was approved by the Board of Science at Stockholm University on 09/03/2020.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

For admission to the course, knowledge is required equivalent to a Bachelor's degree. English 6 or equivalent.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
HELA	Cultural evolution	7.5

Course content

The course is interdisciplinary and addresses five themes about man, his culture and processes for changing culture on both short and long time scales. These central themes are a) time scales for cultural evolution, b) mechanisms for changing culture, c) how culture is transmitted between individuals and populations, d) how man became a cultural being, and e) consequences of cultural evolution such as worldviews, belief phenomena and restrictions. During the course, participants gain experience of how researchers from different faculties study issues related to culture and cultural change.

Learning outcomes

After completing the course, the student is expected to be able to:

- account for general characteristics of observations of cultural evolution and on what time scales they operate
- relate to and discuss different theories, derived from different scientific traditions, about how culture changes, spreads and arises
- explains how different methods can be used to study cultural evolution
- describe, in broad outline, human biological history, how humans differ from other animals, and how humans became a cultural being

Education

Teaching consists of lectures, seminars, computer labs and exercises.
The course is offered in English.

Forms of examination

- The course is examined as follows: Assessment takes place through written tests.

The examiner can decide on adapted or alternative examination formats for students with disabilities. The examination will be conducted in English.

b. A passing final grade requires participation in seminars, computer labs and exercises. If special reasons exist, following consultation with the teacher involved, the examiner may grant the student exemption from the obligation to participate in certain compulsory instruction.

c. Grading: The course's final grade is set according to a seven-point criterion-referenced scale:

A = Excellent

B = Very Good

C = Good

D = Satisfactory

E = Adequate

Fx = Failed, some additional work is required

F = Failed, much additional work is required

d. The course's grading criteria are handed out at the start of the course.

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 three examination opportunities per academic year the course is offered. For the academic years that the course is not offered, at least one examination opportunity is offered.

f. Students awarded the grade Fx are given the opportunity to improve their grade to E. The examiner decides on the supplementary assignments to be performed and the pass mark criteria. The supplementary assignments will take place before the next examination opportunity.

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 the course was discontinued. Requests must be made to the departmental board. The provision also applies in the case of revisions of the course syllabus and revisions of the required reading.

Misc

This course can be taken as part of a Master's programme at the university, but may also be taken as a separate course.

The course is given in collaboration with the Centre for Cultural Evolution and the Department of Archaeology and Classical Studies.

Required reading

The required reading is decided by the department board and published on the course page in the course catalogue at least 2 months before the start of the course.