Department of Biology Education

Stockholm University

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Plant diversity and evolution - a global perspective
Växternas diversitet och evolution - ett globalt perspektiv

15.0 Higher Education Credits
15.0 ECTS credits

Course code:	BL7073
Valid from:	Autumn 2023
Date of approval:	2023-02-07
Department	Department of Biology Education
Main field:	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 February 7, 2023.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

For admission to the course, knowledge is required equivalent to 120 credits, of which 75 credits in biology, including the courses Floristics 5 credtis (BL2021), Physiology 15 credits (BL2016), Cellular and molecular biology 15 credits (BL2018) and Diversity and evolution of organisms 15 credits (BL2031) or equivalent. English 6 or equivalent.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
DEL1	Practicals, theory	12
DEL2	Individual project	3

Course content

a. The course addresses global diversity in land plants from an evolutionary and phylogenetic perspective. Theoretical and practical studies of plant morphology and systematics as well as plant evolution, global distribution patterns and how these change over time. The course includes theory, practical work in the lab, excursions and visits to relevant workplaces. The course participants also do their own project work that is connected to modern research in the subject of plant systematics.

b. The course consists of the following modules:
Module 1: Practicals, theory 12 credits
Module 2: Individual project 3 credits

Learning outcomes

After completing the course, the student is expected to be able to:
• show an overall understanding of the diversity and distribution of land plants, and how these have changed in a geological time perspective (module 1)
• be able to identify and describe the morphology and anatomy of land plants from an evolutionary and systematic perspective (module 1)
• show basic knowledge of taxonomy and nomenclature (module 1)
• be able to address scientific issues, carry out a small practical or theoretical project and present the results in the form of a scientific text and an oral presentation (module 2)

• be able to critically review and discuss scientific texts that are relevant to plant systematics (module 2)
• show some insight into the role of land plants in the global ecosystem (module 2)

Education

Teaching consists of lectures, laboratory sessions, excursions, study visits and project work.
The course is offered in English.

Forms of examination

a. The course is examined as follows: Assessment of module 1 takes place through written tests. Assessment of module 2 takes place through written and oral presentations.
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 laboratory sessions, excursions and study visits. 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
Grades of module 1 will be set according to a two-point grading scale: fail (U) or pass (G).
Grades of both modules will be set according to a seven-point criterion-referenced scale.
A passing final grade requires passing grades on all included parts.
The final grade of the course is determined by weighing the grades from all course modules, where each grade is
weighed in relation to the scope of the course modules.

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 for each course module 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. Upon a passing supplementation of deficiencies in understanding – minor
misunderstandings, minor inaccuracies or too limited reasoning in some parts – the grade E is used. Upon a passing
supplementation of basic formality errors, the grades A-E are used.

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.

Limitations

This course may not be included in a degree together with the course Plant diversity and evolution - a global perspective (BL7032) or with equivalent courses.

Misc

This course includes field studies, which entails costs to the student. The course can be part of Master's programmes in biology and can also be given as an independent course.

Required reading

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