Syllabus
for course at first level
Tropical Marine Biology
Tropisk marinbiologi

7.5 Higher Education Credits
7.5 ECTS credits

Course code: BL5003
Valid from: Autumn 2007
Date of approval: 2006-07-24
Department: Department of Biology Education

Subject
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
Admittance to the course requires knowledge equivalent to Cell and Molecular Biology 15 credits, Diversity and Phylogeny of Organisms 15 credits, Physiology 15 credits and Ecology, Floristics and Faunistics 15 credits. (Three credits corresponds to approximately two weeks full-time studies).

Course structure

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Course content
The course covers the tropical marine landscape and the interaction between different ecosystems such as the mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass beds, run-off area and the open ocean. These ecosystems are analyzed with overarching topics such as ecotourism, resilience, climate change impacts etc. Emphasize is put on interactions between different ecosystems, what goods and services are produced and how people affect their natural support system.

Learning outcomes
It is expected that the student after taking the course will be able to: 1) understand the function and structures of tropical aquatic ecosystems and the interactions between them, 2) provide basic decision support about how role of the environment in the development of coastal tropical communities, 3) provide knowledge about how humans affect their environment from a systems-oriented perspective.

Education
The education consists of internet-based tutorials based on the course homepage, discussion groups on the course online forum and written home examination. Participation in group discussions and independent work 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 (home examination).

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 to achieve a pass grade in an ordinary examination have the right to take at least further
   four examinations, as long as the course is given. The term “examination” here is used to denote also other
   compulsory elements of the course. Students who have achieved a pass grade on an examination may not
   retake this examination in order to attempt to achieve a higher grade. Students who have failed to reach a pass
   grade on two occasions have the right to request that a different teacher be appointed to set the grade of the
   course. A request for such appointment must be sent to the departmental board.

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.

Limitations
The course may not be included in a degree together with the course Management of Aquatic Resources in
the Tropics 5 p (BI3820) or the equivalent.

Misc
The course is a component of the Bachelor’s Programmes in Biology and Marine Biology, 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.