Department of Biology Education

Stockholm University

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Plant-Animal Interactions
Växt-djur-interaktioner

7.5 Higher Education Credits
7.5 ECTS credits

Course code:	BL8009
Valid from:	Autumn 2007
Date of approval:	2006-09-11
Department	Department of Biology Education
Subject	Biology

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 credits or Evolution and Biodiversity 15 credits. (Three credits corresponds to approximately two weeks full-time studies). Swedish upper secondary school course English B or equivalent or one of the following tests. Cambridge CPE och CAE: Pass. IELTS : 6.0 (with no part of the test below 5.0). TOEFL (paper based): 550 (with minimum grade 4 on the written test part). TOEFL (computer based): 213. TOEFL (internet based): 79.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
8A09	Lectures and seminars	3
8B09	Individual and Group Projects	4.5

Course content

The course covers basic theories and biology concerning pollination, herbivory and dispersal. Effects of interactions on population dynamics of plants and animals and the conditions for biological control. Interactions and community structure and the significance of spatial heterogeneity. Interactions and community structure, multitrophical interactions and network theory. Effects of interactions on traits and life history evolution in plants and animals. Genetics of interactions, coevolutionary processes and the importance of spatial variation. Macroevolutionary patterns, conservatism in food choice, food quality, importance of visual and olfactory cues and chemical aspects of these.
The course includes the following elements: Lectures and seminars 3 hp. Indiviual or group projects 4.5 hp.

Learning outcomes

It is expected that the student after taking the course will be able to: • describe how different types of plant animal interactions such as herbivory, pollination and dispersal affect the interacting organisms. What premises and restrictions various interacting organisms display. • describe the effects of plant animal interactions on population dynamics and community structure. • describe how coevolutionary processes and interactions are related to the evolution of life history traits of plants and animals. • know the factors from macroevolutionary patterns to visual and olfactory cues which affect the choice of host plants of animals

Education

The education consists of lectures, seminars and individual and/or group projects.

Participation in seminars 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:
Activity at seminars
Presentations of individual and/or group projects.

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.

Misc

The course is a component of the Master's Programme in 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.