Department of Biology Education

Stockholm University

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Plant Ecology
Växtekologi

7.5 Higher Education Credits
7.5 ECTS credits

Course code:	BL8010
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.(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
8010	Plant ecology	7.5

Course content

The course covers demography and population dynamics of plant populations. Regulating factors of plant populations. Dispersal and spatial dynamics of natural plant populations. Patterns in diversity, abundance and biogeography of plant populations. Structuring factors, both biotic and abiotic, such as plant animal interactions, mutualism, competition and predation. Evolutionary mechanisms in plants. Life history theory and repoductive systems of plants. Basic soil science. The prospects of plants to adapt to various environments as it relates to physiological prerequisites and restrictions.

Learning outcomes

It is expected that the student after taking the course will be able to: • describe plant ecological patterns individual-, population- community- and ecosystem level. • describe the evolutionary processes for modular organisms and what modularity means for evolution and ecology. • use matrix models to analyse temporal and spatial population dynamics of plants. • generally describe the ecology of plant regions of the world. • generally describe the ecophysiology of plants.

Education

The education consists of seminars, exercises and individual or group projects.
Participation in seminars, exercises, group works and 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 and/or oral examination and written presentation

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:
•approved individual or group projects.
•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 Molecular Life Sciences, 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.