



Course syllabus

Faculty of Health and Life Sciences

Department of Biology and Environmental Science

2BI013 Sötvattensekologi, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Freshwater Ecology, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

Biology

Subject Group

Biology

Level of classification

First Level

Progression

G2F

Date of Ratification

Approved 2012-11-26

Revised 2014-12-02 by Faculty of Health and Life Sciences.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2015

Prerequisites

General entry requirements and Biology 60 credits, including Ecology 15 credits and Chemistry 15 credits, or corresponding.

Objectives

At the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- describe and exemplify elementary principles of hydrology and hydrogeochemistry of fundamental importance for the distribution and abundance of aquatic organisms
- demonstrate competence in basic field and laboratory methods in freshwater ecology
- use identification keys and name important groups of organisms in freshwater habitats
- account for the occurrence of major groups of organisms including their role in the functions of freshwater ecosystems
- use databases and compile information about lakes and streams for classifications of ecological status
- communicate basic principles and conclusions from research in Freshwater Ecology with specialists, the public and decision makers.

Content

The course is divided in two parts:

Module 1 Freshwater Ecology; Theory 3 credits

- Ecohydrology and hydrogeochemistry in the river basin
- Habitats and organisms in lakes and streams
- Populations and ecosystem processes
- Aquatic environmental objectives, monitoring and measures

Module 2 Practical assignments 4.5 credits

- River basins. Database assignment with calculations of run off, lake volume and retention.
- Water quality. Methods for sampling and analysis. Environmental status criteria.
- Aquatic organisms. Methods for sampling, identification and analysis of distribution and abundance of macrophytes, plankton and benthic invertebrates. Status classification.

Type of Instruction

Lectures, seminars, field and laboratory exercises.

The participation in seminars, practical exercises and assignments is mandatory.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with Distinction (VG).

Examination of Part 1 is usually based on one or more individual knowledge tests. A second examination will be offered within six weeks during the semester. Examination opportunities can be limited to five.

Part 1 is assessed with the grades U, G and VG. Part 2 is examined by evaluation of laboratory- and field assignments, by oral and written presentations of the project work.

Part 2 is assessed with the grades U and G.

Assessment of whole course is determined by Part 1. Examination criteria to pass the course are defined by the objectives.

Course Evaluation

Upon completion, the course will be evaluated by filling out an evaluation form. The result of the individual evaluations are turned into a summary report that will be kept in the department archives. The outcome of the evaluation of the previous year, as well as possible measures taken, will be discussed with the individual responsible for the educational program, as well as with incoming students at the start of the next course.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Mandatory course literature

Brönmark, C. & Hansson, L-A. (2005). *The biology of lakes and ponds*. Oxford University Press. 285pp. ISBN 0 19 851613 4

Identification literature, scientific articles and a compendium with instructions for field- and laboratory assignments will be provided during the course.

Supplementary literature

Sand-Jensen, Kaj, Friberg, Nikolai & Murphy, John. (2006) *Running Waters*. National Environmental Research Institute, Denmark.

Will be provided during the course

Shaw B., Mechenich C. & Klessig L. Understanding lake data. Available as PDF on

<http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/publications/under/>(23 February 2010)