

Course Specifications

From the academic year 2016-2017 up to and including the

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)

Credits 5.0 Study time 135 h Contact hrs 49.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019

A (semester 2)	English	excursion	20.0 h
		lecture	20.0 h
		group work	10.0 h
		guided self-study	5.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019

Lens, Luc	WE11	lecturer-in-charge
Shawkey, Matthew	WE11	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Biology	5	A
Exchange Programme in Biology (master's level)	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Taxonomy, identification, distribution, migration, navigation, behaviour, life-history trait, ecological model, conservation

Position of the course

Students gain insight in various research topics across the field of ornithology. They focus in more detail on a selection of topics through critical reading of recent publications in ornithological journals. Students hereby integrate ecological, evolutionary and functional insights which were gained in other courses.

Contents

Subsequent chapters highlight both theoretical and practical aspects of ornithology. The following chapters are covered:

- (1) Taxonomy
- (2) Biogeography
- (3) Distribution patterns
- (4) Mobility
- (5) Tropical ornithology
- (6) Invasive species
- (7) Museum studies
- (8) Topography, moult, sexing and aging
- (9) Capita selecta

Initial competences

There is no specific knowledge required to attend this class. Critical reading of ornithological publications is based on the various ecological and evolutionary courses embedded in the Bachelor program.

Final competences

- 1 To acquire a general understanding about the field of ornithology.
- 2 To acquire profound insights in selected topics of ornithology.
- 3 To correctly identify, age, and sex common native birds species.
- 4 To report on ornithological concepts, patterns and processes in accurate scientific language.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Guided self-study, excursion, group work, lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

General ornithological concepts are taught during oral classes. Ornithological case studies are discussed during group works. Knowledge on native fauna is gained through assisted self-tuition. Excursions focus on bird ringing and determination.

Learning materials and price

A syllabus is available free of charge. Student contribution to the excursions: 7 EUR

References

Bennett, PM & Owens, IPF. 2002. Evolutionary Ecology of Birds: Life Histories, Mating Systems and Extinction. Oxford Series in Ecology and Evolution. Oxford University Press.

Gill, FB. 2006. Ornithology. WH Freeman

Grubb, TC Jr. 2006. Ptilochronology: Feather Time and the Biology of Birds. Oxford Ornithology Series. Oxford University Press.

Stutchbury BJM & Morton ES. 2001. Behavioural Ecology of Tropical Birds. Academic Press.

Course content-related study coaching

During practical classes, ornithological concepts are discussed by means of group reviews of recent scientific publications. During field excursions and study visits, practical identification techniques are being trained. An electronic discussion forum will be activated and students can also make appointments for additional questions re. the content of this course.

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Oral examination

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Oral examination

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Theory: oral examination with written preparation (periodic)

Evaluation of assignment (non-periodic)

Calculation of the examination mark

Theory: oral examination with written preparation (50% of total)

Assignment (50% of total)