Introduction to Marine and Lacustrine Biology (C002485)

Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2019-2020

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)
Credits 3.0 Study time 90 h Contact hrs 30.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2019-2020
A (semester 1) English lecture 25.0 h
excursion 5.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020
De Troch, Marleen WE11 lecturer-in-charge
De Clerck, Olivier WE11 co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020 crdts offering
Master of Science in Marine and Lacustrine Science and Management 3 A

Teaching languages
English

Keywords
Algae, seagrasses, mangroves, invertebrates, vertebrates, phyto- and zooplankton, phyto- and zoobenthos

Position of the course
To convey to non-biology students an insight in all marine organisms (systematics, morphology and ecology) living in marine and lacustrine biotopes

Contents
This course will give an overview of the organisms present in marine and lacustrine biotopes with emphasis on the typical adaptations related to the environment. The following topics will be introduced and discussed:
• Diversity of photosynthetic organisms (Cyanobacteria, photosynthetic protists, macroalgae, mangroves and seagrasses)
• Organisms of the sea: plankton versus nekton
• Processes in the open sea
• Organisms of the sea bed
• The diversity of benthic marine invertebrates
• Seaweeds, seagrasses, and benthic organisms
• Benthic life habits

Initial competences
• Basic knowledge in biology

Final competences
1 To get knowledge on the biology of marine and lacustrine organisms.
2 To understand ecological processes in these environments.

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
Excursion, lecture

(Approved)
Extra information on the teaching methods

   Classroom lectures are followed by brief interactive discussions. The practical part of the course consists of a guided excursion to a diverse coastal system (e.g. the North coast of France, Westerscheldt estuary) and/or a visit to the algae collection.

Learning materials and price

   Cost: 20.0 EUR for syllabus, copies of research papers (not compulsory) handbooks: Graham Linda & Wilcox Lee (Algae) and Dawson Yale (Marine Botany); Levinton J.S. (Marine Biology, Function, Biodiversity, Ecology)

References

   Graham Linda & Wilcox Lee (Algae) and Dawson Yale (Marine Botany); Levinton J.S. (Marine Biology, Function, Biodiversity, Ecology)

Course content-related study coaching

   Opportunity for questioning the lecturers during and after the classes, and outside these via email, personal contact and via Ufora.

Evaluation methods

   end-of-term evaluation

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

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

   not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

   Oral examination with written preparation. There are typically 2-4 questions for each part (botany, zoology). The questions seek an equilibrium between knowledge and understanding.

Calculation of the examination mark

   The final score is calculated on a 50/50 basis for both parts (Botany, Zoology). Students who eschew period aligned and/or non-period aligned evaluations for this course unit may be failed by the examiner.

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(Approved)