Introduction to Marine and Lacustrine Biology (C002485)

**Course Specifications**  
Valid as from the academic year 2019-2020

**Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020**

- De Troch, Marleen  
  WE11 lecturer-in-charge
- De Clerck, Olivier  
  WE11 co-lecturer

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2019-2020**

- A (semester 1)  
  English  
  Lecture  25.0 h  
  Excursion  5.0 h

**Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020**

- Master of Science in Marine and Lacustrine Science and Management  
  Credits  3  
  Offering  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.

ILO 1, 2

(Approved)