

Introduction to Ecology (C001294)

Due to Covid 19, the education and evaluation methods may vary from the information displayed in the schedules and course details. Any changes will be communicated on Ufora.

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)
Credits 4.0 Study time 120 h Contact hrs 36.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2020-2021

A (semester 2)	Dutch	Gent	excursion	10.0 h
			lecture	27.5 h

Lecturers in academic year 2020-2021

Sabbe, Koen	WE11	lecturer-in-charge
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Offered in the following programmes in 2020-2021

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Science in Geography and Geomatics	4	A
Bachelor of Science in Sociology	3	A
Linking Course Master of Science in Geography and Geomatics	4	A
Linking Course Master of Science in Urbanism and Spatial Planning	4	A
Preparatory Course Master of Science in Urbanism and Spatial Planning	4	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Ecology, evolution, biogeography, biodiversity, ecosystems, global change

Position of the course

The course aims at familiarizing the bachelor student in geography and geomatics and sociology with the basic ecological concepts.

Contents

Ecology (definition and relevance for geography), evolution, limiting conditions and resources, biogeography, life cycles and strategies, competition, population and community ecology, disturbance, succession, diversity, productivity, ecosystem ecology and biogeochemical cycles. These concepts will be illustrated using examples from both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and during excursions. The most important ecosystems and their geographical distributions will be discussed. Important applied ecological subjects such as global change, sustainability, pollution and conservation will be extensively dealt with.

Initial competences

Final objectives of secondary education, for Geography students Ba1 'Introduction Physical Geography' and Ba2 'the biosphere: plants',

Final competences

- 1 The student knows and understands the above-mentioned ecological principles and processes that influence the distribution of plants and animals in space and time, and that determine the composition and physiognomy of ecosystems and landscapes, on various spatial scales.
- 2 The student is aware of the fact that biosphere and geosphere are intricately linked and knows how they mutually interact.
- 3 The student is capable of independently and critically framing geographic problems in an ecological context (where relevant).
- 4 The student is aware of the impact of anthropogenic activities on the ecosystems on Earth.

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

Extra information on the teaching methods

Students from the Sociology Bachelor have 20 contact hours lectures and the excursions. They do not need to study chapters 3, 4 and 10 from the syllabus.

Learning materials and price

Syllabus: Begon, M, Howarth, RW & Townsend CR, Essentials of Ecology, 4th Ed, Wiley 2014. Cost: about 40 euro. Cost excursions: about 10 euro.

References

Course content-related study coaching

Opportunity for questioning the lecturers during the lectures, through email, personal contact and in an e-learning environment (Ufora).

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation

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

Written examination with open questions, oral examination

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

Written examination with open questions, 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

Periodical evaluation: on theory and excursions: written exam with (non-obligatory) oral examination

Calculation of the examination mark

First examination chance: 100 % periodical evaluation. Second examination chance: 100 % periodical evaluation. In order to pass for this course, the student has to participate in the excursion.