

Ornithology (C002778)

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 5.0 Study time 135 h Contact hrs 49.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2020-2021

A (semester 2)	English	Gent	lecture	20.0 h
			guided self-study	5.0 h
			excursion	20.0 h
			online lecture	0.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2020-2021

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

Offered in the following programmes in 2020-2021

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Science and Technology (main subject Biology)	5	A
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 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, lecture, online 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. Because of COVID19 modified forms of work may be implemented when necessary.

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

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

Written examination

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

Written examination

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Written examination (periodic)

Calculation of the examination mark

Written examination (100% of total)