Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2020-2021

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 6.0 Study time 180 h Contact hrs 50.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2020-2021
A (semester 1) English Gent seminar 10.0 h
self-reliant study activities 25.0 h
lecture 30.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2020-2021
Vanreusel, Ann WE11 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2020-2021 credits offering
Master of Science in Marine and Lacustrine Science and Management 6 A

Teaching languages
English

Keywords
Deep-sea, margin and polar systems, ecology and biogeochemistry, global change

Position of the course
Most important margin, deep-water and polar systems will be studied in an integrated way with focus on biological and bio(geo)chemical processes, including ecosystem dynamics in a context of global change

Contents
Structure, origin and evolution of systems that can be found along ocean margins, the deep sea or in polar environments such as cold seeps, mud volcanoes, cold water corals, carbonate mounds, hydrothermal vents, abyssal plains and ice margins. Study of their geological features the ecological and biochemical processes, their ecosystem functions and biodiversity, the most important environmental drivers, their exploration, exploitation, threats (including anthropogenic activities and global change) and management.

Initial competences
General knowledge of marine biological, marine geological and biochemical processes.

Final competences
1. Students have advanced knowledge and insight in the ecology of margin systems and extreme environments, and how they evolve over time.
2. Students have insight in the aspects of management and societal context.

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
Lecture, seminar, self-reliant study activities

Extra information on the teaching methods
Individual study as a preparation for the discussions based on a selection of specialised

(Draft -- caution, this is not the final version)
Due to COVID 19 other teaching tools may be used when needed

Learning materials and price

Scientific publications from international peer-reviewed journals and specialized handbooks

References

Course content-related study coaching
During the course, students can ask questions at the end of each class or after making an appointment. At the end of the course, special sessions for answering questions can be organised. Questions can also be asked during contact moments of assignments.

Evaluation methods
end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period
Written examination with open questions

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period
Written examination with open questions

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation
Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods
In addition to the exam there is an assignment by means of interactive discussions on specified subjects from the lectures, supplemented with specialized literature.

Calculation of the examination mark
• 60% written exam
• 40% assignment

(Draft -- caution, this is not the final version)