

Ethnobotany and New Crop Development (I002742)

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** 40.0 h

Course offerings in academic year 2020-2021

A (semester 1) English Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2020-2021

Van Damme, Patrick LA21 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2020-2021

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Bioscience Engineering: Agricultural Sciences	4	A
Exchange Programme in Bioscience Engineering: Agricultural Sciences (master's level)	4	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Ethnobotany, domestication, new crop development, sociological research and statistical analyses techniques

Position of the course

To get acquainted with the principles and methodology of ethnobotanical research and domestication/new crop development. Theory will be matched to research and statistical analysis techniques' presentation and use.

Contents

Theory

1. Ethnobotany: history, definitions and present status
2. Ethnobotanical research and statistical analysis techniques
3. Ethnobotany, domestication and new crop development: introductory notions and methodology; case studies: food plants and medicinal plants
4. Capita selecta, partly lectured by foreign academic staff (through ERASMUS/SOCRATES exchange)

Practicals

1. Botany: determination of higher plant species (family level)
2. Sociological interview techniques
3. Domestication and crop husbandry of newly-to-crop plant species: practical sessions in the green house
4. Visit to the living plant collections of the National Botanical Garden of Belgium in Meise
5. Seminar work (on interesting, under-utilised crop species)

Initial competences

Limited knowledge of botany is a plus.

Final competences

- 1 Students are acquainted with both theoretical background and practical aspects of ethnobotanical field research
- 2 Being able to make correct plant determinations and also to start experimental/practical work dealing with plant domestication, propagation and multiplication.

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, practicum, self-reliant study activities, seminar: coached exercises

Extra information on the teaching methods

Theory is taught during lectures

Practical sessions include:

1. excursion
2. assignment to be written en presented
3. practical skills to be acquired (botanical identification of plant families)

Learning materials and price

A syllabus is available. Cost: 20 EUR

References

Alexiades, M.N. (1996). Selected guidelines for Ethnobotanical Research: A Field Manual. The New York Botanical Garden, New York, 306p

Cotton, C.M. (1996). Ethnobotany Principles and Applications. John Wiley and Sons Ltd., West Sussex, England 424p

Martin, G.J. (1995). Ethnobotany: a methods manual. Chapman & Hall, London, 268 p

For more references: see syllabus

Course content-related study coaching

Permanent through Minerva. Personal contacts with lecturer and assistants.

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

Open book examination, participation, assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Theory: written exam with open questions

Practicum:

- skills acquired during practical sessions are evaluated by an open book exam. Presence and participation are taken into account in the final evaluation
- content as well as presentation of the assignment is evaluated.

Calculation of the examination mark

Theory: 1/3

Practical exam: 1/3

Assignment: 1/3

Students who eschew period aligned and/or non-period aligned evaluations for this course unit may be failed by the examiner.