



Stellenbosch

UNIVERSITY
IYUNIVESITHI
UNIVERSITEIT

SCIENCE

EYENZULULWAZI NGEZENDALO

NATUURWETENSKAPPE

BDE 315 Ecology Field Course

Short description of the module

This module is field based. The location of the module is Grootbos Private Nature Reserve. The module will be timed to fall outside of the formal lecture periods – from 25 January – 10 February. The aim of the module is to bring ecological and evolutionary theory to life in the field. The main foci are biotic interactions (eg. pollination, competition, facilitation), animal behaviour and ecosystem-level ecology. Lectures, assignments and discussion groups will be conducted in the field, as well as during the term.

The module is a restricted module and largely limited to students registered in the Biodiversity and Ecology programme.

BDE 315 Ekologie Veldkursus

Kort beskrywing van die module

Die module is op veldwerk gebaseer. Die lokasie is Grootbos Privaat Natuurresewaat. Die module val buite die formele lesingreeks – van 25 Januarie to 10 Februarie. Die doel van die module is om teoretiese aspekte van ekologie en evolusie in die natuur te demonstreer. Die hoofokuspunkte is biotiese interaksies (bv. bestuiwing, kompetisie, fasilitering), dieregedrag en ekologie op die vlak van die ekosisteem. Lesings, opdragte en besprekingsgroepe word in die veld, asook tydens amptelike lesings behartig. Toegang tot hierdie module is beperk, hoofsaaklik tot studente wat vir die Biodiversiteit en Ekologie-program geregistreer is.

Module summary

Name	BDE 315
Duration	1 st semester
Type	Compulsory in all BDE programmes
Academic commitment*	16 credits 160 notional hours
Scheduled learning opportunities	2 week field trip
Assessment option	Option: 5
Language option	Option 3
Mode of offering	Face-2-Face
Corequisites/ Prerequisites/Pass prerequisite	BDE 212 or 214 and a final mark of at least 40% in the other Biodiversity and Ecology module

**Notional hours are the learning time that it would take an average learner to meet the outcomes of the module.*

***The onus is on the students to ensure that they meet the prerequisites of the module.*

Module-oorsig

Naam	BDE 315
Duur	1 st semester
Tipe	Verplichtend vir alle BDE studente
Akademiese verbintenis*	16 krediete 160 veronderstelde ure
Geskeduleerde leergeleenthede	2 weke veldwerk
Assesseringsopsie	Opsie : 5
Taalopsie	Opsie 3
Modus van aanbieding	in persoon
Newevereistes / Voorvereistes / Slaagvoorvereistes*	BDE 212 of 214 met 'n finale punt van minstens 40% in die ander Biodiversiteit en Ekologie-module

**Veronderstelde leerure is die tyd wat die gemiddelde leerder aan die module sal moet spandeer om aan die uitkomst van die module te voldoen.*

***Die onus rus op die studente om te verseker dat hulle aan die voorvereistes van die module voldoen.*

Outcomes

- Basic concepts in field ecology;
- The most important present-day research areas/techniques in ecological studies;
- Use of a variety of field techniques used in field ecology;
- Critical thinking;
- Information synthesis;
- Communication skills;
- Experimental design and associated statistical analyses;
- Writing a scientific article;
- The presentation of a seminar based on a specific article.

Uitkomst

- • Basiese konsepte van veldekologie;
- • Die mees belangrike hedendaagse navorsingsareas/tegnieke in ekologiese studies;
- • Gebruik van 'n verskeidenheid van veldtegnieke wat in veldekologie gebruik word;
- • Kritiese denke;
- • Sintese van inligting;
- • Kommunikasie vaardighede;
- • Eksperimentele ontwerp en geassosieerde statistiese analises;
- • Die skryf van 'n wetenskaplike artikel
- • Die voordrag van 'n seminar gebaseer op 'n gepubliseerde artikel.

Scheduled learning opportunities

The official timetable indicating all scheduled learning opportunities and their allocated venues can be accessed via [My.SUN](#).

Lectures

The course consists of a two-week field course from 25 January – 10 February at Grootbos Private Nature Reserve (equivalent to 42 lectures and 14 practicals). In addition to experimental design, data collection and analysis for research projects, the course will include instruction in ecology theory in the form of student seminars. Student seminars will be based on the synthesis of selected journal articles that will be provided on the field camp. There are no lectures or practicals during the semester. This module is concept-driven, with emphasis on training students to think critically.

Practicals

The course is largely taken up by hands-on practical work. Students will design and conduct their own research project under the guidance of staff and teaching assistants. This process will include the design of a research protocol, obtaining data in the field, statistical treatment of data and presentation of results in written form.

Field Trips

Compulsory field trip from 25 January – 10 February at Grootbos Private Nature Reserve.

Geskeduleerde leergeleenthede

Die amptelike rooster wat al die geskeduleerde leergeleenthede en die toegewysde venues aandui, is beskikbaar by [My.SUN](#).

Lesings

Die kursus bestaan uit 'n twee weke veldkursus vanaf 26 Januarie – 7 Februarie by Grootbos Natuurresewaat (ekwivalent aan 42 lesing en 14 praktika). Benewens eksperimentele ontwerp, data insameling en analise vir navorsingsprojekte, sal die kursus ook onderrig in ekologiese teorie in die vorm van studente seminare insluit. Studente seminare sal gebaseer word op die sintese van geselekteerde joernaalartikels wat tydens die veldkamp beskikbaar gestel sal word. Daar is geen lesings gedurende die semester nie. Hierdie module is konsepgedrewe, met 'n klem daarop om studente te leer om krities te dink.

Praktika

Die kursus bestaan grotendeels uit praktiese werk. Studente sal hulle eie navorsingsprojek ontwerp en uitvoer onder die leiding van personeel en onderrig-assistente. Hierdie proses sal die ontwerp van 'n navorsingsprotokol, insameling van data in die veld, statistiese hantering van data en aanbieding van resultate in geskrewe vorm insluit.

Veldwerk

Verpligtende veldwerk vanaf 26 Januarie – 7 Februarie by Grootbos Privaat Natuurresewaat.

Study material

SUNLearn is the official learning management platform of Stellenbosch University. Each module has a dedicated page on this platform which can be accessed via this link:
<https://learn.sun.ac.za/>

Studiemateriaal

SUNLearn is die amptelike leerbestuursplatform van die Universiteit Stellenbosch. Elke module het 'n toegewysde blad op hierdie platform met toegang via hierdie skakel: <https://learn.sun.ac.za/>

Lecturers

Course coordinator:

Dr Nasreen Peer (NP) - npeer@sun.ac.za

Lecturers:

Prof. Mike Cherry (MC) - mic@sun.ac.za

Dr Sam McCarren (SM) - z.mccarren@gmail.com

Course Assistant:

Ms Shula Johnson (SJ) - shulaj@sun.ac.za

Peer-to-Peer Facilitators

Ms Stephanie Schoeman (SS) - stephanieschoeman@sun.ac.za

Mr Frederick Becker (FB) - fwb@sun.ac.za

Mr Arjan Engelen (AE) - 20102860@sun.ac.za

Dosente

Kursus koördineerder:

Dr Nasreen Peer (NP) - npeer@sun.ac.za

Dosente:

Prof. Mike Cherry (MC) - mic@sun.ac.za

Dr Sam McCarren (SM) - z.mccarren@gmail.com

Kursus-assitent:

Ms Shula Johnson (SJ) - shulaj@sun.ac.za

Eweknie-fasiliteerders:

Ms Stephanie Schoeman (SS) - stephanieschoeman@sun.ac.za

Mr Frederick Becker (FB) - fwb@sun.ac.za

Mr Arjan Engelen (AE) - 20102860@sun.ac.za

Assessment

This module follows assessment option 5. Please see the [Faculty of Science's assessment guidelines](#) for more details.

Method of assessment	Description	Allocated marks (%)	Dates
A1	Project proposal	10	29 Jan
A1	Participation	5	29 Jan – 7 Feb
A1	Seminar	15	29 Jan – 7 Feb
A1	Theory test	25	16 Apr
A1	Project draft	30	9 Apr
A1	Final project	15	7 May

Please see the assessments and promotion chapter in the [SU Calendar Part 1 \(General\)](#) for institutional rules regarding assessments.

Assesserings

Die datums van alle sentraal geskeduleerde assesserings word op [MySUN](#) gepubliseer.

Metode van assessering	Beskrywing	Punte toegeken (%)	Datum
A1	Projekvoorstel	10	29 Jan
A1	Deelname tydens seminare	5	29 Jan – 7 Feb
A1	Seminaar	15	29 Jan – 7 Feb
A1	Teorie toets	25	16 Apr
A1	Projek konsepdokument	30	9 Apr
A1	Finale projek	15	7 May

Hierdie module volg assesseringsopsie 5. Raadpleeg die [Fakulteit Natuurwetenskappe se assesseringsriglyne](#) vir meer besonderhede.

Absenteeism (Missed opportunities)

Please see the section 11 of the SU Calendar Part 1 (General) for the institutional rules regarding absence from classes and or tests. Take note that for any absence from the university *for more than one* teaching, learning or assessment opportunity, for whatever reason, students need to apply for leave of absence from the Registrar's office. If you are absent for exactly one teaching, learning or assessment opportunity you need to consult your lecturer immediately and provide the appropriate evidence as stipulated in the calendar.

Afwesigheid (die misloop van 'n leergeleentheid)

Raadpleeg asseblief afdeling 11 in [Deel 1 \(Algemeen\) van die US Jaarboek](#) vir die institusionele reëls met betrekking tot afwesigheid van klasse en of toetse.

Neem kennis dat studente by die Registrateur moet aansoek doen vir verlof tot afwesigheid, vir watter rede ook al, van *meer as een* onderrig-, leer-, of assesseringsgeleentheid.

Indien jy afwesig is van presies een onderrig-, leer-, of assesseringsgeleentheid, moet jy die betrokke dosent onmiddellik kontak en die toepaslike bewys van rede tot afwesigheid inhandig, soos uiteengesit in die Jaarboek.

Communication

The **announcement forum on the SUNLearn module page** is the only official platform that will be used to make announcements relevant to this module. Please check this regularly.

For communication with individual students, lecturers, support staff and peer-to-peer facilitators will only use students' official SUN email addresses.

Students are also requested to use their official **SUN email addresses** for all academic related communication to:
npeer@sun.ac.za/shulaj@sun.ac.za.

Kommunikasie

Die **aankondigingsforum op die SUNLearn moduleblad** is die enigste amptelike platform wat gebruik sal word om aankondigings, wat relevant is vir hierdie module, te maak. Kontroleer dit asseblief gereeld.

Vir kommunikasie met individuele studente, sal dosente, steunpersoneel en eweknie-fasiliteerders slegs studente se amptelike SUN-e-posadresse gebruik.

Studente word ook versoek om hul amptelike **SUN-e-posadresse** vir alle akademiese verwante kommunikasie te gebruik na:
npeer@sun.ac.za/shulaj@sun.ac.za.

Addressing challenges

For any complaints, the first port of call is the class representative or the lecturer. If not satisfactorily resolved, it can be escalated to the Head of Department or [Coordinator: Academic and Student Affairs](#).

Hantering van uitdagings

Vir enige klagtes, is die klasvertegenwoordiger of dosent die eerste plek om hulp te soek. Indien die probleem nie bevredigend opgelos word nie, kan dit na die Departementshoof of [Koördineerder: Akademiese- en Studentesake](#) verwys word.

Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct includes plagiarism, collusion, cheating and fabrication as stipulated in the [Disciplinary code for students of Stellenbosch University](#).

The [SU Policy on Plagiarism](#) defines plagiarism as: "The use of the ideas or material of others [including AI generative tools, such as ChatGPT or Bing] without [appropriate] acknowledgement, or the re-use of one's own previously evaluated or published material without acknowledgement (self-plagiarism)." Such acknowledgement would include referencing the source of previously expressed ideas or published materials, or acknowledging the contribution of e.g. the AI tool, as stipulated for a specific assessment or assignment.

Plagiarism is regarded as a serious offence. More serious cases are handled as set out in the [Stellenbosch University procedure for the investigation and management of allegations of plagiarism document](#). Less serious cases are dealt with by the module coordinator and respective department as set out by the procedures of the faculty.

Repeaters

Repeaters are expected to attend all practical classes and submit all assignments/practical reports. Exemption from pracs may be granted at the discretion of individual lecturers, and must be requested within the first month of the semester.

Akademiese Wangedrag

Akademiese wangedrag sluit plagiaat samespanning, bedrog en versinsel in, soos bepaal in die [Dissiplinêre kode vir studente van die Universiteit Stellenbosch](#).

Die [US Plagiaatbeleid](#) definieer plagiaat as: "Die gebruik van ander se idees of materiaal [insluitend KI generatiewe instrumente, soos ChatGPT of Bing] sonder [toepaslike] erkenning, of die hergebruik van 'n persoon se eie voorheen geëvalueerde werk of gepubliseerde materiaal sonder erkenning (selfplagiaat)." Sodanige erkenning sal insluit die verwysing na die bron van voorheen uitgedrukte idees of gepubliseerde materiaal, of die erkenning van die bydrae van bv. die KI-instrument, soos gestipuleer vir 'n spesifieke assessering of opdrag.

Plagiaat word as 'n ernstige oortreding beskou. Ernstiger gevalle word hanteer soos uiteengesit in die [Universiteit Stellenbosch se dokument oor die prosedure vir die ondersoek en bestuur van bewerings van plagiaat](#). Minder ernstige gevalle word deur die modulekoördineerder en betrokke departement hanteer soos uiteengesit in die fakulteitsprosedures.

Herhalers

Daar word van herhalers verwag om alle praktiese klasse by te woon en alle werkopdragte/praktiese verslae in te dien. Vrystelling van praktiese klasse kan na goedgeskonde van individuele dosente toegestaan word.

Field trip timetable

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				25 January Depart for Grootbos, arrival, set up and orientation	26 Habitat walk through with staff	27 Habitat walk through with staff
28 MC seminars Project proposal preparation	29 MC seminars Project proposal preparation	30 MC seminars Project proposal preparation	31 MC seminars Proposal presentations	1 February NP seminars Field work	2 NP seminars Field work	3 NP seminars Field work
4 SM seminars Field work	5 SM seminars Field work	6 SM seminars Field work	7 Pack up and depart for Stellenbosch			