Faculty of Health, Science and Technology
Biology

Syllabus

Conservation Biology

Course Code:	BIGC02
Course Title:	Conservation Biology *Conservation Biology*
Credits:	15
Degree Level:	Undergraduate level
Progressive Specialisation:	First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (G2F)

Major Field of Study:
BIA (Biology)

Course Approval
The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Health, Science and Technology 2015-05-13, and is valid from the Spring semester 2016 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites
Biology 60 ECTS cr, with at least 45 ECTS cr completed, including 15 ECTS cr in ecology.

Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:
- give an account of biological diversity at different organisational levels and geographical scales,
- define the diversity concept,
- give an account of and explain human influence on biological diversity, historically and presently,
- give an account of the factors threatening biological diversity and relate these to the basic ecological processes,
- explain the problem of small populations,
- give an account of the importance of landscape ecology for biological diversity,
- give examples of strategies and practical conservation measures in order to save and restore biological diversity,
- give an account of biological diversity and ecosystem services,
- give an account of values and ethics of relevance to conservation,
- actively participate in discussions of relevance to conservation,
- compile and present the content of science articles,
- complete a population viability analysis and communicate the result orally and in writing.

Content
The course covers biological diversity and the threats to it. Biological diversity is defined and its geographical distribution described.The most important factors causing reduction in biological

diversity in the past, the present and the future are treated along with strategies for conservation from ecological, economic and social perspectives. Theory is illustrated with examples of strategies and practice at different organisational levels, including ecological, economic and ethical aspect of conservation.

Instruction is in the form of lectures and a seminar series on course literature or recent research articles as the basis of discussions of selected aspects of the lectures. How to use a common population viability analysis, PVA, tool is included as an examination component.

A number of ongoing Swedish conservation projects are visited during a multi day excursion.

The course comprises:
- a theoretical part with lectures on relevant parts of the course literature
- discussion seminars on part of the course literature and scientific papers
- individual project (PVA)
- a multi day excursion

Reading List
See separate document.

Examination
Assessment is based on a written exam, on student seminar performance, written and oral presentations of the project and excursions.

Grades
One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course.

Quality Assurance
Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

Course Certificate
A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional information
The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor's and Master's levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.