



UNIVERSITY OF NICOSIA ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΛΕΥΚΩΣΙΑΣ

University of Nicosia, Cyprus

Course Code EDUE-141	Course Title Environment and Living Organisms	ECTS Credits 6
Department Pedagogical Studies	Semester Fall	Prerequisites None
Type of Course Elective	Field Science Education	Language of Instruction Greek
Level of Course 1 st Cycle	Year of Study 1 nd	Lecturer(s) Dr Maria Evagorou
Mode of Delivery face-to-face	Work Placement N/A	Co-requisites None

Objectives of the course:

The main objectives of this course is that the students will:

- Understand the basic concepts of ecology that will enable them to explore how living organisms live, and the interaction and inter-relationships that exist in our natural world.
- Develop an understanding of the main characteristics and functions of the human.
- Be able to recognize plants and animals that are unique in Cyprus.
- Apply their knowledge by designing a number of activities to
- Use the technology to strengthen their knowledge and teaching skills in regards to the environment and the living organisms.
- Develop an appreciation of their environment and perceive that as a system with actions and reactions that can affect either parts of the system or the whole.

Learning outcomes:

With the completion of the course the students will be able to:

- Explain the characteristics of living organisms, their behaviours and their interactions with the environment.
- Apply their knowledge on living organisms when conducting field studies, and compare the different conditions that exist, and how these can affect the living organisms, or the types of the living organisms in a specific field.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the environment as a system, and explain how changes in one part of the environment can have an effect on different aspects of the system.
- Explain a number of human systems, how they work and their inter-relationship.
- Predict changes to an environmental system when a new living organism is introduced, or when it is removed from the system.
- Prepare teaching activities to teach aspects of the human and environmental systems.

Course content:

- Living organisms, their behavior and interactions and inter-relationships with the environment.
- Local abiotic conditions.
- The environment as a system
- Systems thinking
- Human body and the body as a system
- Weather and how to measure different weather conditions
- Rocks and different types of soil
- Animals and plants of Cyprus
- Environmental Education and Sustainable Development
- Field trips and the use of technology

Learning activities and teaching methods:

Lecture, workshops, experiential seminars, field trip, individual and group work, individual feedback, student presentations

Assessment methods:

Formative assessment, feedback, individual research, collaborative work, presentations, discussions

Required textbooks/reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Γεωργόπουλος, Α	<i>Γη: Ένας Μικρός και Εύθραυστος Πλανήτης</i>	Αθήνα: Gutenberg.	1998	960-01-0641-X

Recommended Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Evagorou, M., Korfiati, K., Nicolaou, C., & Constantinou, C. P.	<i>An Investigation of the Potential of Interactive Simulations for Developing System Thinking Skills in Elementary School: A case study with fifth-graders and sixth-graders.</i>	International Journal of Science Education, 31(5), 655-674	2009	N/A