



UNIVERSITY OF NICOSIA

ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΛΕΥΚΩΣΙΑΣ

University of Nicosia, Cyprus

Course Code ENVM-105	Course Title Biodiversity	ECTS Credits 6
Department Life and Health Sciences	Semester Fall	Prerequisites None
Type of Course Major Requirement	Field Environmental and Energy Management	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course 1 st Cycle	Year of Study 1 st	Lecturer(s) Dr Iris Charalambidou
Mode of Delivery face-to-face	Work Placement N/A	Co-requisites None

Objectives of the Course:

The aims of this course are to enable students to . . .

1. understand the main aspects about species, biodiversity and taxonomy
2. understand the fundamental concepts of conservation, genetics, evolution and adaptation
3. practice a range of graduate skills, including discipline-specific skills, at a depth appropriate to this level

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of this course, students are expected to:

1. be able to explain the classification system for organisms and appreciate biodiversity within plant and animal taxa and fungi
2. understand the role and diversity of micro-organisms
3. understand basic population genetics and adaptations and principles of conservation science
4. use dichotomous keys for identification of organisms
5. research, compile and write a literature-based report
6. undertake a laboratory practical investigation
7. write a laboratory report in a scientific report style

Course Content:

The course content includes: biodiversity of organisms in a global context; the major groups of animals and plants and their classification; an introduction to genetics; adaptations and natural selection; micro-organisms, their diversity and functional importance; approaches to conservation of organisms. Field and laboratory practicals are an important component of the course.

Teaching Methods:

PPT Lectures, Videos, Readings, In-class discussions and practicals

Assessment Methods:

Weekly exercises	30%
Assignment	30%
Final Exam	40%

Required Textbooks:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Kevin J Gaston and John I Spicer	<i>Biodiversity</i>	Blackwell Sciences, Oxford	1998	

Recommended Textbooks / Reading:

1. Beeby A.,and Brennan A-M 2008 *First Ecology*. 3rd Ed. Oxford University Press.
2. Cain, M.L., Yoon, C.K. and Singh-Cundy, A. 2009. Discover Biology. 4th Ed. W.W. Norton & Company
3. Dobson, M. & Frid, C. (2008) Ecology of Aquatic systems. Oxford University press
4. Mackenzie, A. Ball. A. and Virdee, S. (2001) BIOS Instant notes in ecology. (2nd edition) Taylor & Francis.

Websites:

1. National Biodiversity Network www.nbn.org.uk/

2. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew <http://www.rbgekew.org.uk/>
3. The Natural History Museum, London <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/>
4. University of Oxford Botanic Garden www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk
5. World Conservation Union <http://www.iucn.org/>