ÖREBRO UNIVERSITET

Course syllabus
Third-cycle courses and study programmes

This is a translation of a Swedish document. In the event of a discrepancy, the Swedish-language version shall prevail.

Biology, Life Science Seminar and Research Presentation I, 4 credits

Biologi, Livsvetenskaplig seminarie- och forskningspresentation I, 4 hp

Course Code/Codes	50BI038
Subject Area	Biology
School/equivalent	School of Science and Technology
Valid from	2021-01-01
Approved	2021-04-08
Revised	
Approved by	Head of School
Translation to English, date and signature	2021-01-27

1 Course content

The course includes seminars on current research topics in areas related to the Life Sciences during a 2-year period. Life Science is a broad and rapidly developing area of research and these advances are not available in textbooks or otherwise published material. Therefore, the course is based on research presentations of novel scientific finding, both by national and international invited guest researchers. In addition, the students will present their research area and planned research project.

2 Outcomes

2.1 The course in relation to the doctoral programme

The course shall primarily refer to the following intended learning outcomes for third-cycle courses and study programmes as described in the Higher Education Ordinance, i.e. the doctoral student shall demonstrate:

Knowledge and understanding
- broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the research field (part of outcome 1)
- advanced and up-to-date specialised knowledge in a limited area of this field (part of outcome 1)

Competence and skills
- the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis (part of outcome 3)
- the capacity to review and assess new and complex phenomena, issues and situations autonomously and critically (part of outcome 3)
- the ability in both national and international contexts to present and discuss research and research findings authoritatively in speech and writing and in dialogue with the academic community and society in general (outcome 6)

- the ability to identify the need for further knowledge (outcome 7)

Judgement and approach
- intellectual autonomy and disciplinary rectitude (part of outcome 9)
- the ability to make assessments of research ethics (part of outcome 9)
- specialised insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used (outcome 10)

The intended learning outcomes are listed in the same order as in the general syllabus for the programme.

2.2 Intended course learning outcomes

To obtain a passing grade, the doctoral student shall demonstrate:

Knowledge and comprehension
After having completed the course the student shall:
- have in depth knowledge of selected current scientific research in Life Sciences
- have introduction to current methodologies in Life Science research
- have improved knowledge of how to present scientific information

Proficiency and ability
After having completed the course the student shall:
- be able to listen to, and comprehend new research topics rapidly and thoroughly
- be able to show advanced ability to orally present their specific research area

Values and attitude
After having completed the course the student shall
- developed a greater ability to critically evaluate new scientific research

3 Reading list and other teaching material

The following course readings and teaching material will be used on the course:

No specific reading material is included in the course. Students receive information from oral presentations, discussion and scientific papers referred to in the seminars.

4 Teaching formats

Teaching on the course takes the following format:

Teaching is based on active participation with a minimum 80% mandatory attendance to organized Life Science seminars. Students are expected to be prepared for discussion of topics related to each seminar. The seminars will be presented by invited guest speakers that are experts in select topics in Life Science research.

The students will have to give a yearly oral scientific seminar and be able to answer questions.

The course runs over 4 semesters (equivalent to 2 years).

Students who have been admitted to and registered on a course have the right to receive tuition and/or supervision for the duration of the time period specified for the particular course to which they were accepted (see the university's admission regulations (in Swedish)). After that, the right to receive tuition and/or supervision expires.

5 Examination

The course is assessed through the following examinations which will be graded separately:

Participation and attendance of the Life Science Seminars, 3 Credits. (Code: 0100)
>80% attendance G.

Oral presentation on specific research area and planned research project, 1 Credit. (Code: 0200)

For further information, see the university's local examination regulations (in Swedish).

For examinations consisting of several examination components, the following applies: If during the course it is concluded that a doctoral student is unable to complete a certain examination component, the examiner may set a substitute assignment provided that circumstances do not reasonably allow for the course component to be completed at a later date during the run of the course.

6 Grades

Examinations on third-cycle courses and study programmes are to be assessed according to a two-grade scale with either of the grades 'fail' or 'pass' (local regulations).

The grade shall be determined by a teacher specifically nominated by the higher education institution (the examiner) (Higher Education Ordinance).

To obtain a passing grade on examinations included in the course, the doctoral student is required to demonstrate that he/she attains the intended course learning outcomes as described in section 2.2. Alternatively, if the course consists of multiple examinations generating credit, the doctoral student is required to demonstrate that he/she attains the outcomes that the examination in question refers to in accordance with section 5.

A student who has failed an examination is entitled to a retake.

If an examination consists of several examination components, and a student fails an examination component, the examiner may, as an alternative to a retake, set a make-up assignment with regard to the examination component in question.

A doctoral student who has failed an examination twice for a specific course or course element is entitled, upon his/her request, to have another examiner appointed to determine the grade.

7 Admission to the course

7.1 Admission requirements

To gain access to the course and complete the examinations included in the course, the applicant must be admitted to a doctoral programme at Örebro University.

Moreover, the applicant shall be admitted as a licentiate or doctoral student in Life Science specialization within Biology or Chemistry.

7.2 Selection

Selection between applicants who have been admitted to doctoral programmes at Örebro University and who otherwise meet the admission requirements as listed above is made according to the following order of precedence:

Applicants from the subject of Biology or Chemistry at Örebro University

If no other selection criteria are specified in this section, priority shall be given to applicants with a lower number of course credits left before the award of their degree over applicants with a higher number of remaining course credits. Should two or more students have equal number of credits, selection will be done through the drawing of lots. This also applies within any selection groups listed unless otherwise stated.

7.3 Other applicants than doctoral students admitted at Örebro University

Other applicants than doctoral students admitted at Örebro University may be given access to the course on the grounds of provisions for and/or agreements regarding contracted courses, joint degrees, national graduate schools or cooperation in other respects with other universities.

Any decisions on what such other applicants may be given access to the course are made separately and on the basis of the provisions and/or agreements that occasion the student to apply for the course.

For participation in the course in other respects, the same provisions shall apply as for doctoral students admitted to Örebro University.

8 Transfer of credits for courses, study programmes and other experience

Provisions on the transfer of credits can be found in the Higher Education Ordinance and on the university's webpage.

9 Other information

- The language of instruction is English.
- The course runs part-time over 4 semesters (equivalent to 2 years).

Transitional provisions