GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Fundamental Oceans and Lakes Biology (C004484)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 3.0 **Study time 90 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 1)	English	Gent	lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

De Troch, Marleen	WE11	lecturer-in-charge
Asard, Han	UA	co-lecturer
Brans, Kristien	VUB	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	**crdts**	**offering**
Master of Science in Marine and Lacustrine Science and Management	3	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Structural and functional biodiversity, primary production, alge, diatoms,benthos, species interactions, deep sea, lakes

Position of the course

Introduction course to unravel the biodiversity of aquatic higher organisms in a wide diversity of ecosystems. Fundamental aspects of oceans and lakes biology will be illustrated by the up-to-date research that is going on in the different research groups involved in the masterprogramme. Basic knowledge of marine and lacustrine organisms and their environment is required.

Contents

Initial competences

Basic knowledge of the biology of aquatic organisms (both plants and animals).

Final competences

1 To get insight in the basic concepts of aquatic biology.
2 To get familiar with the ongoing research in the different research labs of the three universities.
3 To get knowledge on the role of key species in various ecosystems.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures are always followed by short interactive discussion sessions and/or guided tours in the labs.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: course-specific slides
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No

References

Course content-related study coaching

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

As this course sets a baseline for the rest of the semester, the assignment needs to be submitted early, i.e. by the end of October.

Calculation of the examination mark

The assessment consists of two equally weighted components:
A) Multiple-choice questionnaire (MC):
During the lectures, a series of multiple-choice questions will be administered based on the course content, organized per session and per study day.
Weighting: 50%. No correction for guessing will be applied.
B) Individual presentation:
Students will prepare an individual (non-group) recorded PowerPoint presentation (± 10 minutes) on a self-selected topic related to the lectures. The presentation will be assessed based on content, structure, clarity, and scientific quality.
Electronic submission of the recorded presentation is due by the end of October.
Weighting: 50%.
The final grade is calculated as the weighted average of both components.
Students must obtain a passing grade for each component within the same examination period in order to pass the course.