

- Faculté des sciences
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Animal population monitoring practicals (3BL2279)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Master en biologie	Terrain: 3 j	Voir ci-dessous	3

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Printemps

Equipe enseignante

This is a team-taught course. The collaborators of info fauna are responsible for the content; experts will supervise the individual projects. For administrative and organizational question please contact Christophe Praz or Benedikt Schmidt.

Contenu

In this course, each student will work in a small group and conduct a practical faunistic project, including statistical design, collection of data and data analysis. The goal is to do all the steps of a monitoring of an animal population.

For the practical project, each group can choose one out of several proposed topics covering different faunistic groups, such as invertebrates, amphibians or mammals. Students also have the possibility to propose a different project based on their own interest (but this requires more independence). Each group is supervised by one expert, who will help them to design and conduct the project. Most projects will consist in obtaining data on the presence or abundance of one or a few endangered animal species and examining one specific question in conservation (impact of habitat management practice, pollution, restoration methods). Students are expected to be able to travel to field sites on their own. Students will perform field work independently. Field work requires a lot of flexibility because animals are only active during day or night or only when weather conditions are favourable.

While the time spent in lectures will be about 20 hours, we expected students to spend 40 hours doing field work and data analysis. At the end of the semester, one afternoon will be dedicated to data analysis conducted with all students together. The report will take the form of a short presentation and a report, both of which will be graded by the teaching team.

Note that parts of this course may be given in French, depending on the projects and the expert. There will however be projects which will entirely be supervised in English.

Learning objectives:

- Design and perform independently a small monitoring project
- Define a question that can be answered with the monitoring data that will be collected in the field
- Analyse the data that you collected, plot the results
- Interpret the results
- Draw conclusions regarding the question that was defined at the start and on the conservation of the target species
- Present the results in oral and written form

Forme de l'évaluation

Oral presentations and written report. Each part will be graded and the average of the two grades will constitute the final grade. If the final grade is below 4.0 and not compensated in the module, the students will need to improve the report based on the feedback received.

In case of insufficient grade, the reexamination must be registered at one exam session, same year and coordinated with professor (contact the professor).

Pré-requis

A strong interest in natural history, ecology and field work is helpful in this course.

Forme de l'enseignement

There will be some introductory lectures (including data analysis). The supervisors will help with the study design, can give an introduction to field work, and data analysis. Afterwards, field work will be done independently.

Objectifs d'apprentissage

Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

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- Carry out a monitoring project
- Present results
- Develop a science question
- Design a monitoring project
- Analyse data