

TROPICAL ECOLOGY - September 13-17, 201

Organized by: Centro de Biologia Ambiental (<http://cba.fc.ul.pt>)

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This course aims to introduce students to the fundamental processes, principles, and key players of tropical ecosystems, with particular emphasis on tropical rain forests. The course will explore the diversity of life and complexity of ecological relationships among plants and animals in tropical environments. Moreover, it seeks to provide students with a critical understanding of current threats to tropical ecosystems.



General course objectives:

The Tropical Ecology course seeks to provide students with an understanding of:

- (1) the distribution and the characteristics of the different tropical ecosystems
- (2) theories concerning the origin and the maintenance of tropical species diversity
- (3) the richness of life forms of tropical plants and animals and adaptations to their environment
- (4) the present-day ecological factors that influence the distribution of tropical organisms
- (5) the life-history of tropical animals and plant-animal interactions (herbivory, seed dispersal, pollination)
- (6) the functioning of a tropical forest (forest dynamics, regeneration, water & nutrient cycling, response to disturbance etc.)
- (7) the anthropogenic threats to tropical biodiversity (habitat loss, fragmentation, agricultural intensification, urbanization, climate change), how tropical species and communities are affected by them and implications for their conservation; impacts of land-use change on ecosystem functioning

General course format: The course will be given as a series of lectures, which will be complemented by a literature seminar to dig more deeply into particular topics covered in the lectures and to discuss recent articles in the field of tropical ecology in general. The course will be given in English.

Calendar: 13 – 17 September 2010

Duration: 22 hours

Schedule:

Lecture:

13.09. – 15.09.: 10-12h & 14-16h

16.09. & 17.09.: 10-12h

Seminar:

16.09. & 17.09.: 14-17h

Location: room 2.3.13 (Departamento de Biologia Animal, FCUL, C2)

N° (min, max) students: 10 - 20

Minimum qualification: ‘Licenciatura’ (bachelor’s) degree in biology or related areas

Fee: free for PhD students in the Doctoral programmes in Biology (FCUL) or Biodiversity, Genetics and Evolution (UL; UP); 100 Euros for master and bachelor students in FCUL; 200 Euros for others

Deadline for applications: June 30, 2010

Candidates should send a short CV and a motivation letter to Christoph Meyer at the following email address: cmeyer@fc.ul.pt