University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Phytosociology, PG_00143452		
Field of study	Natural Resources Conservation		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026	Academic year of realisation of subject	2027/2028
Education level	Bachelor's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Optional subject group Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	2	Language of instruction	Polish
Semester of study	4	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit	Laboratory of Geobotanics and Nature Conservation -> Department of Plant Taxonomy and Nature Conservation -> Faculty of Biology -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Renata Afranowicz-Cieślak	
	Teachers		

Lesson types

Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
Number of study hours	0.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30

E-learning hours included: 0.0

Learning activity and number of study hours

Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
Number of study hours	30	5.0	15.0	50

Subject objectives

1. Learning the basic research methods used in floristry and phytosociology.
2. Proper planning of field research and subsequent stages of its implementation.
3. Preparation of phytosociological research results.
4. Distinguishing and describing vegetation units.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[OZPL3_U06] The graduate is able to make observations and perform basic physical, biological and chemical measurements in the field or laboratory	- conducts field observations of the features of phytocenoses and their habitats	[SU6] demonstration of practical skills
[OZPL3_K07] The graduate is prepared to demonstrate responsibility for the equipment/ materials entrusted and respects the work of others	- is responsible for the entrusted equipment and materials and respects his own work and that of others	[SK8] observation of student's independent or team work
[OZPL3_U01] The graduate is able to use basic apparatus and research tools and maintains the correct sequence of operations in laboratory and field work	- applies techniques and research tools used in floristry and phytosociology to describe and valorize the state of nature	[SU6] demonstration of practical skills
[OZPL3_W11] The graduate possesses a fundamental understanding of the concepts and terminology of natural science, as well as knowledge of the evolution of natural sciences and the research methods employed in them. They are also cognizant of the potential for practical application	- defines basic concepts in floristics and phytosociology - describes the relationship between the occurrence of individual plant species and types of phytocenoses and the abiotic conditions of the habitat	[SW3] text preparation/written work
[OZPL3_K08] The graduate is ready to systematically update his/ her natural knowledge and to apply it in practice	- becomes familiar with the latest research methods and materials used to describe plant cover used in reports and expert opinions	[SK3] text preparation/written work
[OZPL3_U04] The graduate is able to plan and carry out simple research tasks in the biological sciences under the guidance of a supervisor	- takes a phytosociological photo - a basic tool for the characterization of vegetation and its inventory - uses correct phytosociological nomenclature	[SU6] demonstration of practical skills
[OZPL3_W13] The graduate has an advanced understanding of the fundamental rules, methods, and techniques of environmental research and their potential applications in nature conservation	- lists the subsequent stages of planning and conducting research as well as the possibilities of documenting vegetation, which are used, among others, in nature conservation - knows the methodology for properly taking phytosociological photos	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW3] text preparation/written work

Subject contents

Issues of field classes: Basic research methods used in research on plant cover. Methods of collecting and storing data. Organization of field research. Selection of research methods appropriate to the research area and biology of plant species. External factors influencing the formation of various plant communities. Division and systematics of plant communities and criteria for their identification. Taking phytosociological photos in selected types of forest and non-forest phytocoenoses.Classroom topics: Preparing phytosociological photos for the documentation of vegetation used in nature valorization and protection. Principles of constructing phytosociological tables. Issues related to the description of plant communities: their floristic composition, structure and functions in the ecosystem.

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Basic knowledge of botany and systematics of plant organisms.

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
written final paper	51.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	Matuszkiewicz W. 2014. Guide to marking plant communities in Poland. PWN, Warszawa. Wysocki C., Sikorski P. 2009. Phytosociology used in landscape protection and shaping. Ed. SGGW. Dzwonko Z. 2007. Guide to phytosociological research. Institute of Botany, Jagiellonian University, Poznań-Kraków.
	Supplementary literature	Afranowicz-Cieślak R. 2013. The state of preservation of riparian and oak-hornbeam communities of the "Mątawski Forest" reserve in Żuławy Wiślane. Acta Botanica Cassubica 11: 5-32. Lazarus M. 2016. The diversity of meadow and pasture vegetation in the Kaszubian Lake District (N Poland). Acta Botanica Cassubica, Monographiae 6, 114 pp. Lazarus M., Afranowicz R. 2011. Vegetation of the edges of the estuary section of the Vistula (northern Poland). Part II. Meadow, herb, fringe, shrub and locally specific communities. Fragment. Flor. Geobot. Polonica 18(1): 101-118.
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed		
Work placement	Not applicable	

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