



## Welcome to University of Gävle and the *Boreal Forest Ecology* course, 7.5 ECTS credits.

This course is running half time between week 46 2016 and until week -03, 2017. I, Lars Hillström, am your course coordinator. Contact me on e-mail [lars.hillstrom@hig.se](mailto:lars.hillstrom@hig.se), or phone 026-648269 if you have any questions about this course.

### Syllabus and Schedule

Syllabus with course literature [Can be found here](#)

Course schedule [Can be found here](#)

### Get Started with Your Studies!

To get started with your studies please follow these three steps. More information at [hig.se/newstudent](http://hig.se/newstudent)

- 1 Collect Your Computer Account**

You can collect your computer account at [webkonto.student.hig.se](http://webkonto.student.hig.se) two week before the semester starts. Your computer account consists of a username and a password and gives you access to the University web services.
- 2 Register in the Student Portal**

You must be registered on the course to attend lectures and to sit exams. You will lose your place on the course if you do not register in time. Please register for your course in the Student Portal at [studentportal.hig.se](http://studentportal.hig.se)

Period for self-registration in the Student Portal: 2016-11-07 – 2016-11-20

Are you conditionally admitted? [This is what applies to you](#)
- 3 Log in to Blackboard**

The Blackboard platform is a web-based learning management system where you find your course material. The day after you registered in the Student Portal you can access your course in Blackboard. Log in via the Student Portal.

Course	Boreal Forest Ecology
Course code	BI301A
Application Code	18113
Faculty	Faculty of Health and Occupational studies
Faculty secretary	Linda Porali
Contact Information	<a href="mailto:kurs-aha@hig.se">kurs-aha@hig.se</a>

## Course Organisation

There will be a Course introduction, at the first meeting, 14<sup>th</sup> of November, presenting the course literature, seminars and excursion during that first meeting. Thereafter there will be four different lectures, and the compulsory classes are seminars, excursions and student presentations.

## Communication

There will be course communication through Discussions on the course on Blackboard.

## Registration for Written Exams

There will be a written exam on this course, however, you will only need to tell the course leader before the exam in this course.

## Course Evaluation

After completion of your course a web-based course evaluation questionnaire will be sent to your HiG e-mail address. Your answers in the course evaluation are very valuable and your comments will help us to improve and to develop the course for the next implementation. All students registered on the course will receive a course evaluation report where all answers are compiled.

University of Gävle, June 22, 2016

**Dear student!**

**We are happy to welcome you to your studies in *Nordic Ecology* at the University of Gävle, Sweden!**

Some of you will take the whole package of courses in *Nordic Ecology*, and some of you are taking one or a few of the courses and are combining studies studying courses at other programs, such as energy systems or business.

We will start the Nordic Ecology courses with the course *Alpine Ecology*, introduction on 2<sup>nd</sup> of September, and the course *Aquatic ecosystems in Nordic Countries* will run in parallel with *Alpine Ecology* during the first period (weeks 35-45) of our autumn semester, starting in the beginning of September and runs until 10 November.

The courses *Boreal forest ecology* and *Sustainability in Nordic ecosystems* will also run in parallel, during the second period (weeks 46-03), starting in week 46, 14 November and 15 November, respectively, and thus runs during November, December, with a Christmas-New Year break and ends on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2017.

In the different courses in *Nordic Ecology* there are quite a few excursions, and in most of the courses, quite a large portion of the teaching will be in different outdoor settings, such as the hike in the mountains in the *Alpine Ecology* course, or forest walks (sometimes in snow!) as in the *Boreal forest ecology* course, and

*The University of Gävle is human-centred and develops the understanding of a sustainable living environment.*

in the *Aquatic ecosystems* course we will be going with a canoe and also do a daytrip with a boat in the Baltic sea, and we will also visit some lakes and rivers. Thus, either if you will take only one or several of these courses, we recommend you strongly to bring clothes suitable for excursions. And for those of you staying longer in the season, you also will need some warm clothes suitable for the Nordic climate.

Of special importance are wind- and rainproof clothes and good hiking boots. For some nights we will stay outdoors in tents and also spend some nights at youth hostels, so if you have own hiking equipment, such as a backpack, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, and maybe even a thermo, please bring it with you to Sweden!

If you don't have any of this equipment, and don't want to buy or maybe have not had time to buy, (or maybe don't think you will have any use of for example a sleeping pad or other of these things), it is possible to buy or rent equipment in some shops that sell and rent outdoor equipment. Please, see this web-page for locating one of those shops in Gävle, which is the one that our students use to rent things from, <http://www.naturkompaniet.se/storelocator/> . If you want to rent things in this shop, they recommend that you should reserve sleeping bag, sleeping pad, or bag pack as soon as you arrive to Sweden, to be sure to be able to get those things.

Regarding tents and cooking equipment which we will use when hiking in the mountains, you can borrow these from our University.

We look forward to meeting you in Sweden!

Best regards

Lars Hillström

Course leader and Lecturer in Biology at the University of Gävle