



## Module syllabus: *Nature of the Upper Silesia*

### 1. Overall information

Module coordinator	prof. dr hab. Barbara Tokarska-Guzik
Contact	<a href="mailto:barbara.tokarska-guzik@us.edu.pl">barbara.tokarska-guzik@us.edu.pl</a> ; +48 32 200 94 79
ECTS	6
Method for the verification of learning outcomes	<p>The final grade for the module is weighted on the average of the following student activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- written final exam (0.5)</li><li>- average evaluation from tests/reports related to the content of the field visits (0.5)</li></ul> <p>To be awarded a final grade, the student must have passed each activity of the module.</p> <p>Grades: below 51% – fail (F); 52-60% – with minimum academic criteria (E); 61-65% – satisfactory (D); 66-75% – good (C); 76-85% – very good (B), ≥ 85% – excellent (A)</p>

### 2. Description of student activity and work

Lecture/discussion sessions	
Responsible instructors	prof. dr hab. Barbara Tokarska-Guzik, dr hab. Anna Orczewska, dr hab. Agnieszka Kompała-Bąba, prof. dr hab. Jacek Gorczyca
Content	<p><b>The purpose of the module</b> is to acquaint students with the diversity of plant and animal species and with the variety of plant communities and the problems of maintenance and preservation.</p> <p><b>Lectures/discussion sessions</b> comprise the core subjects in nature conservation at different spatial scales.</p> <p><b>Lecture/discussion session content:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Diversity of vascular plant species in the Upper Silesia region</li><li>2. Non-forest plant communities in the landscape of Upper Silesia – their value and possibilities for their protection.</li><li>3. Nature protection in Upper Silesia – the strategy and network of protected areas (<i>Department of Botany and Nature Protection</i>)</li><li>4. Diversity, distribution, current conditions and main sources of disturbances of the forest communities of Upper Silesia (<i>Department of Ecology</i>).</li><li>5. Origin and transformations of the terrestrial fauna of Upper Silesia – diversity of species in various habitats (<i>Department of Zoology</i>)</li></ol>
Number of didactic hours (contact hours)	15
Literature	<p>Parusel J.B. (red.) 1997. <i>Czerwona Lista Zbiorowisk Roślinnych Górnego Śląska</i>. Centrum Dziedzictwa Przyrody Górnego Śląska, Katowice: 38-68.</p> <p>Wika S., Woźniak G. (red.). 2007. <i>Threats, protection and transformation of vegetation of Upper Silesia and adjacent areas</i>. Uniwersytet Śląski, Katowice</p> <p>Tokarska-Guzik B. i in. (red.) 2015. <i>Baza danych przestrzennych w zarządzaniu zasobami środowiska przyrodniczego województwa śląskiego</i>. Uniwersytet Śląski, Katowice</p> <p><a href="https://www.researchgate.net/publication/277308443_BAZA_DANYCH_PRZESTRZENN">https://www.researchgate.net/publication/277308443_BAZA_DANYCH_PRZESTRZENN</a></p>





	<a href="#">YCH W ZARZADZANIU ZASOBAMI ŚRODOWISKA PRZYRODNICZEGO WOJEWODZTWA ŚLĄSKIEGO pod redakcją Barbary Tokarskiej-Guzik Ryszarda Chybiorza i Jerzego B. Parusela</a>
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<b>Laboratory</b>	
Responsible instructors	Staff of the <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Department of Botany and Nature Protection</li><li>- Department of Ecology</li><li>- Department of Zoology</li><li>- Department of Hydrobiology</li></ul>
Field visits	<p>During field visits, students learn how to identify plant and animal species and plant communities and will gather materials and make observations that will be essential in preparing their report and filling in the work record.</p> <p>Within the frames of the module, the following field courses will be carried out:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Vertebrate and invertebrate fauna of the Goczałkowice reservoir and adjacent areas (<i>Department of Zoology</i>)</li><li>2. Fauna and flora of the anthropogenic water bodies in Upper Silesia on the example of the subsidence ponds in Czułów, which formed as a consequence of the coal mine activity (<i>Department of Hydrobiology</i>)</li><li>3. Ecological processes and their mechanisms that are responsible for the biological diversity of the selected forest and non-forest communities. Examples of sites that require active protection in order to maintain/restore their biodiversity (<i>Department of Ecology</i>)</li><li>4. Selected plant communities of Upper Silesia (<i>Department of Botany and Nature Protection</i>)</li><li>5. Selected protected areas of the Upper Silesia (<i>Department of Botany and Nature Protection</i>)</li></ol>
Methodology of field visits	<p>Independent and group work under the supervision of the staff/ instructors will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identifying plant and animal species</li><li>• Observing the state of selected vegetation communities, discussing the main drivers that shape their current biodiversity and possible ways to improve it. Basic field observations and filling in the worksheet questions</li><li>• Protocols commitment and presentation</li></ul>
Number of didactic hours (contact hours)	45
Literature	<p>Nowak T., Urbisz A., Kapusta P., Tokarska-Guzik B. 2011. Distribution patterns and habitat preferences of mountain vascular plant species in the Silesian Uplands (southern Poland). <i>Polish Journal of Ecology</i> 59 (2): 219-234.</p> <p>Tokarska-Guzik B., Woźniak G., Babczyńska-Sendek B., Sierka E., Urbisz A. (eds.) 2005. Special characteristics of the Silesian Voivodship regions in focus. Culture – landscape – wildlife. A guide to the field session, pp. 73. Wydawnictwo Gnome, Katowice (2 wersje językowe: angielska i polska), ISBN 83-87819-44-1</p> <p>Tokarska-Guzik B., Urbisz A., Urbisz A., Węgrzynek B., Nowak T., Pasierbiński A. 2008. Regional scale assessment of alien plant invasions: a case study for the Silesian Upland (southern Poland). In: B. Tokarska-Guzik, J.H. Brock, G. Brundu, L. Child., C.C. Daehler &amp; P. Pyšek (eds.). <i>Plant Invasions: Human perception, ecological impacts and management</i>, p. 171-188. Backhuys Publishers, Leiden, The Netherlands</p> <p>and other source materials given by teachers;</p> <p>moreover recommended on-line sources: <a href="http://www.biogeo.us.edu.pl">www.biogeo.us.edu.pl</a> <a href="http://www.orsip.pl/geoportals">http://www.orsip.pl/geoportals</a></p>





### 3. Forms of verification

<b>Reports from realised field visits</b>	
Evaluation	Evaluation comprises judgment and knowledge related to sense and methods field visits, engagement in realisation, use of reference materials. Grades for the reports are awarded on a scale of A-F, where A is the best and F is a fail. An excellent report (A) – without any essential errors Fail (F) – no report

<b>Final exam</b>	
Grades	The final written exam will include the content of the lectures and field visits, as well as the recommended literature Grades are awarded on a scale: A-F, where A is the highest and F is a fail. Excellent (A) – the student presents fluent knowledge in the field of nature protection, has minimal errors that do not affect the quality of the presentation. Good (C) – the student presents good knowledge in the field of nature protection, makes rare but subtle errors. Satisfactory (E) – the student exhibits satisfactory knowledge, but with a poor understanding in the field of nature protection and makes subtle errors. Fail (F) – the student does not present satisfactory knowledge in the field of nature protection and makes many substantial errors, which disqualify their presentation.

