

Subject name	Natural Disturbances in Forest Communities	
Subject code	E.2.NDFC.SC.ECTIE.L	
Department	Department of Forest Biodiversity	
Faculty	Faculty of Forestry	
Subject supervisor/Lecturer	Professor Jerzy Szwagrzyk	
General information	semester	preferred summer semester (possible winter semester)
	ECTS credits	4
	Lectures total	16
	Laboratories/classes	0
	Field exercises	14
Objective and general description	<p>Student at the end of the course should know and understand the role played by natural disturbances: wildfires, winds, floods and landslides in forest dynamics. These issues are very frequently addressed in contemporary scientific papers, but are almost absent in the textbooks. The results of recent researches have shown, that natural disturbance play key role in dynamics of various forest communities. The existence of some forest types, as well as occurrence of some plant and animal species depends on natural disturbances.</p> <p>The course includes: short characteristics of various kinds of natural disturbances, description of the role played by disturbances in various forest communities with a special emphasis on the forests of temperate zone, determination of the consequences of natural disturbances for the species composition and structure of forest communities, presentation of the consequences of natural disturbances for the forest management and for nature conservation.</p>	
Assessment method	Writing an essay on a chosen topic related to natural disturbances	
References	<p>Johnson E. A., Miyanishi K. (Red.) 2007. Plant disturbance ecology. Academic Press, Boston</p> <p>Pickett S. T. A., White P. S. 1985. The Ecology of Natural Disturbance and Patch Dynamics. Academic Press, San Diego-New York.</p> <p>Van der Maarel E. (Red.). 2005. Vegetation Ecology. Blackwell Publishing, Oxford.</p> <p>Walker L. R., Del Moral R. 2003. Primary succession and ecosystem rehabilitation. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge-New York.</p>	