

Desert Studies

Semester: 2026-A

Agriculture and Biotechnology of Drylands

A

Mandatory Courses

Course No	Lecturer	Subject	Credits	Day	Time	Campus	Building	Room	Rem
001-2-0153	Dr. Chris Arnush, Dr. Scott Hansen	Writing a Scientific Paper	2	Wed	14:00-16:00	Sde Boker	Water Inst.	15	Students are required to complete the course in their second semester of studies (or 3rd semester)
470-2-0100	prof. Roi Gazit and Dr. Shira Ovadia	The Care and Use of Animals in Research	0			Online program			
900-5-2002	Online Program	Training in Chemical & Biological Safety	0			Online program			
900-5-5001	Online Program	Educational Software on Getting to Know the Law for the Prevention of Sexual Harassment	0			Online program			

B Core courses - Students are required to attend four core courses selected from all core courses

Mandatory Courses

Course No	Lecturer	Subject	Credits	Day	Time	Campus	Building	Room	Rem
001-2-2017	Prof. Simon Barak	Plant Perception, Transduction and Response to Environmental Signals (limited to 10 students)	2	Thu	10:00-12:00	Sde Boker	Biology	136	
001-2-2036	Prof. Gideon Grafi	Molecular Biology and Epigenetics	2	Sun	08:30-10:00	Sde Boker	Biology	32	Home Exam

C Seminars and Thesis Writing - Mandatory Courses

Students are required to attend Departmental Seminars (one seminar per semester)

Students are required to present two seminars (one student seminar per year)

In the third and fourth semesters, students must register for Thesis Writing

Mandatory Courses

Course No	Lecturer	Subject	Credits	Day	Time	Campus	Building	Room	Rem
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Mandatory Courses

Course No	Lecturer	Subject	Credits	Day	Time	Campus	Building	Room	Rem
001-2-1000		Thesis Writing - Continuation	0						Mandatory for students on study extenstion
001-2-2222	Dr.Gilad Gabay(coordinator)	Departmental Seminar	0	Wed	11:30-12:30	Sde Boker	Old Admin. Build.	1	Mandatory each semester. 4 times during the degree
001-2-9991		Thesis Writing - A	6						Mandatory for students on their 3rd semester
001-2-9992		Thesis Writing -B	6						Mandatory for students on their 4rd semester

D

Elective Courses

Course No	Lecturer	Subject	Credits	Day	Time	Campus	Building	Room	Rem
001-2-2015	Prof. Dina Zilberg, Prof. Amit Gross	Introduction to Aquaculture	3	Tue	12:00-15:00	Sde Boker	Biology	136	
001-2-2025	Prof. Dina Zilberg	Practical Fish Disease Diagnosis (A) (Prerequisite: Theoretical fish diseases course)	1						for schedule please contact the lecturer
001-2-2028	Prof. Shmuel Appelbaum	Guided Reading on Economical Utilization of Food Industry Wastes as Aquaculture Feeds, Particularly in Arid lands	2						for schedule please contact the lecturer Guided reading course - limited to two students
001-2-2038	Prof. Naftali Lazarovitch	Soil Physics	3	Tue	15:00-18:00	Sde Boker	Biology	32	Home Exam
001-2-2040	Prof. Gideon Grafi	Lab Course in Epigenetics	4	22-26/02/2026		Sde Boker	Biology	136	Five-day intensive course offered during the Fall Break + preperation during the fall semester
001-2-2043	Prof. Shimon Rachmilevitch	Plant Stress Indications: Methods and Instrumentation	2	15-17/02/2026		Sde Boker	Biology	32	Three-day intensive workshop offered during the Fall Break

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Elective Courses

Course No	Lecturer	Subject	Credits	Day	Time	Campus	Building	Room	Rem
001-2-2051	Prof. Inna Khozin-Goldberg	Guided Reading on Lipid Metabolism	2			Sde Boker			Guided reading course - limited to two students.for schedule please contact the lecturer
001-2-2054	Prof. Shimon Rachmilevitch	Guided Reading on Topics in the Ecophysiology of Desert Plants	2						Guided reading course - limited to two students. for schedule and approval please contact the lecturer
001-2-2060	Dr. Nina Kamennaya	History of the landuse, agriculture & domestication	2	Wed	09:00-11:00	Sde Boker	Biology	32	
001-2-2066	Prof. Aaron Fait	Metabolomics Laboratory	2	01-05/03/2026		Sde Boker	Biology	136	Five-day intensive course offered during the Fall Break
001-2-2070	Prof. Inna Khozin-Goldberg	Biology and Biotechnology of Microalgae	3	Tue	12:00-15:00	Sde Boker	Biology	32	
001-2-2074	Prof. Aaron Fait	Viticulture in Arid and Sem-Arid Environments	3	Sun	10:00-12:00	Sde Boker	Biology	136	
001-2-2076	Dr. Nina Kamennaya	Practical Environmental Cytometry	2.5	01-05/03/2026	08:00-17:00	Sde Boker	Biology	32	Five-day intensive course offered during the Fall Break
001-2-2081	Dr. Tarin Paz-Kagan & Dr. Tamir Caras	UAVs for environmental and agriculture research	3	08-12/02/2026	08:30-16:45	Sde Boker	Biology	32	Five-day intensive course offered during the Fall Break in Sde Boker campus. Frontal Exam
001-2-2203	Dr. Gilboa Arye	Adsorption and Reactivity of Chemicals in Soils	3	Mon	15:00-18:00	Sde Boker	zoom		Will be held on zoom
001-2-2289	Prof. Simon Barak	Guided Reading on Molecular and Systems Biology Approaches to Plant Stress Tolerance Research	2			Sde Boker			Guided reading course - limited to two students. Please coordinate with the course lecturer

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Elective Courses

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001-2-2290	Prof. Dina Zilberg	Guided Reading on Aquatic Animal Health	2			Sde Boker			Guided reading course - limited to two students. Please coordinate with the course lecturer

E General courses (2-3 credits point in total)

Elective Courses

Course No	Lecturer	Subject	Credits	Day	Time	Campus	Building	Room	Rem
001-2-1200	Prof. Simon Barak & Dr. Buzi Raviv	BGU Radio Academy – Podcast production course	2	22-26/02/2026		Sde Boker	School	1	Five-day intensive course offered during the Fall Break. The course will be held contingent upon registration of minimum 4 students
001-2-3021	Prof. Itamar Giladi	Biostatistics: Class (can be completed during the program)	3	Tue	08:30-10:00	Sde Boker	Biology	32	Final exam in a computer lab.*0 credit points for students in the Ecology and Nature Conservation department. Limited to 17 students
001-2-3021 EX	Prof. Itamar Giladi	Biostatistics: Exersice (can be completed during the program)		Wed	09:00-11:00	Sde Boker	School	Computer room	Final exam in a computer lab.*0 credit points for students in the Ecology and Nature Conservation department. Limited to 17 students
001-2-3079	Prof. Ariel Novoplansky	Scientific Presentation (Group A)	2	Wed	11:00-13:00	Sde Boker	Biology	A3	
001-2-3079 GB	Prof. Ariel Novoplansky	Scientific Presentation (Group B)	2	Wed	13:00-15:00	Sde Boker	Biology	A3	
001-2-4016	Dr. Leah Orlovsky	Geography of Desertification	2	Sun	12:00-14:00	Sde Boker	Solar	1	

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Elective Courses

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001-2-4029	Prof. Yosef Ashkenazy	Introduction to statistics and probability using Python	3	Wed	09:00 -12:00	Sde Boker	Physics	Seminar Room	Frontal Exam
001-2-5069	MOOC	Water & the Environment: Current challenges and solutions	3						Online course. Frontal exam in Sde-Boker campus