

NATURE ENTHUSIAST ONLINE COURSE

Theory Unit Standard: US 8478

Special Outcomes: SO 1- 7

The Nature Enthusiast online course provides foundational knowledge for anyone who is interested in nature. The online course has been developed by highly-qualified and experienced subject matter experts. Their expertise, practical and training experience, will be valuable in your learning experience throughout the course.

Week	Lessons	Learning objectives		
1.	Introduction to the Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trainer welcome Course overview Meet the team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recall the main course requirements Differentiate between the different support roles: trainer, facilitator, student support Introduce yourself to your peers and trainer 	WEBINAR
	Geology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mineral identification Earth's major rock types Soils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meaning of geology Major components of the physical structure of the earth Important and common soil types 	
	Weather and Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difference between climate and weather Specific influences on South Africa's climate Worldwide weather 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand and know the difference between weather and climate Know different cloud types, the weather conditions that go with them and the different types of local wind 	
2.	Astronomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effect of the moon and the sun on tides Common constellations and stars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the difference between a universe, galaxy, and solar system Phases of the moon and how it affects large bodies of water 	WEBINAR
	Ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecosystems Competition and predation Where do humans fit in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand ecology and its importance in guiding Understand the major components of the ecosystem Understand predation and the competition that occur in the natural environment 	
3.	Biomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nine biomes of South Africa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand what a biome is, and name the nine different biomes in South Africa Main indicator species (animals and vegetation) in each 	

	Taxonomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hierarchical order of organisms Names of living organisms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the meaning of taxonomy Why and how living organisms are classified The hierarchical order of classification Understand the basics of how plants, fungi and bacteria are classified 	WEBINAR
4.	Plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plants classification Tree and forb identification Medicinal uses and traditional beliefs Grass identification Grazing adaptation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know the anatomy of plants Know the medicinal uses and interesting facts about plants and trees Be able to explain grassland succession Understand the grazing value of grasses 	WEBINAR
	Arthropods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Characteristics of arthropods Classification of arthropods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know what both invertebrates and arthropods are Classify spiders into two main suborders Identify venomous spiders in South Africa 	
5.	Fish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classification of fish Ecological role of fish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Label the external anatomy of a fish Understand the ecological importance of fish 	WEBINAR
	Amphibians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Characteristics of amphibians Ecological role of amphibians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain mating postures, nests and types of eggs of frogs and toads Identify common frogs by their calls 	
6.	Reptiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Characteristics of reptiles Classification of reptiles Snakes and snake venom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the features of the three reptile orders Know and identify snakes, lizards, geckos, monitors turtles, tortoises Identify venomous snakes Know the Nile crocodile 	WEBINAR
	Birds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classification of birds Bird and bird nest identification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe altricial and precocial birds Know the identification pointers of birds 	
7.	Mammals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classifying mammals, by different methods Characteristics of mammals Classification of mammals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know the classes and subclasses of mammals Have basic knowledge of the main indicator species of Southern Africa 	WEBINAR
	Ethology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animal behaviour and nature guiding Animal grouping behaviour Knowledge of tracks, sounds and signs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know what ethology is (animal behaviour) Understand the different groups and behaviours Identify sounds and signs of animals in South Africa 	
8.	Conservation Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire as a conservation management tool Alien plant control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the best conservation practices and their uses Understand and combat alien plant species, bush encroachment, and overgrazing Know the difference and name different parks - Transfrontier/Peace park 	WEBINAR
	Historical Human Habitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief early history and importance of archaeological sites Traditional South African cultures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have basic knowledge of early inhabitants of Southern Africa Basic understanding of the distribution of traditional Southern African cultures. 	WEBINAR

