Course Description
The course aims at introducing the richness of diversity of living organisms around the world and their conservation programs. Local and global case studies will be used to illustrate the concepts. Course activities include lectures, field trip, and students’ project presentations. At the end of the course, students are expected to enhance their appreciation on our nature.

Topics
1. Characteristics of Life; Classification of Living Things; Introduction of Diversity of Life Forms
2. Plant Walk
3. Habitat Diversity and Biomes
4. Value of Biodiversity
5. The Origin of Life
6. Biodiversity: Value and Threats
7. Protecting Biodiversity

Grading Scheme
- Quizzes (40%)
- Group project (20%)

[Topics and grading schemes are subject to change as deemed appropriate. Students will receive information and guidelines in class on how they will be assessed for the course.]

Instructor(s)
Prof. T.K. GOH
Prof. Goh has taught in various universities in Hong Kong and was a visiting scholar at HKUST from 2003 to 2012. He was previously Professor and Head of the School of Biological Sciences at QUEST International University Perak, Malaysia. Prof. Goh is an appointed panel member of the “Expert Panel on Tree Management” of the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section of the Development Bureau of the Government of HKSAR. His expertise in life science, especially with plants, is unparalleled. Prof. Goh has been teaching SISP 1101 for HKUST Summer Institute since 2011, sharing his knowledge and philosophy with many Summer Institute participants.

Dr. Ice KO
Dr. Ko received her BSc (Environmental Science) and PhD (The Nutritional Ecology of Frugivorous (Fruit-eating) Birds in Hong Kong) from the University of Hong Kong. She currently teaches environment-related courses and developing various student enrichment activities under the Division of Life Science at HKUST. She believes a good teacher should not only pass on course-related knowledge to students, but also help them build good relationships with self, significant others and the nature in order to enjoy a sense of well-being. Dr. Ko has been teaching SISP 1101 for HKUST Summer Institute since 2011, and is consistently rated one of the best course instructors by Summer Institute participants.