

Course Unit	Molecular Biology		Field of study	Biology and biochemistry	
Bachelor in	Biology and Biotechnology		School	School of Agriculture	
Academic Year	2021/2022	Year of study	2	Level	1-2
Type	Semestral	Semester	1	ECTS credits	6.0
			Code	9029-510-2101-00-21	
Workload (hours)	162	Contact hours	T	30	TP
			PL	30	TC
			S	-	E
			OT	4	O
			T - Lectures; TP - Lectures and problem-solving; PL - Problem-solving, project or laboratory; TC - Fieldwork; S - Seminar; E - Placement; OT - Tutorial; O - Other		

Name(s) of lecturer(s) Altino Branco Choupina

Learning outcomes and competences

At the end of the course unit the learner is expected to be able to:

1. Gain solid knowledge about the structure and properties of nucleic acids.
2. Know the function of DNA and the essential genetic mechanisms.
3. Identify the central dogma of molecular biology.
4. Understand the structure of the genome.
5. Interpret the different mechanisms of gene expression.
6. Understand the processes that allow the establishment of mutations and genetic recombinants.
7. Establish an overview of the techniques of recombinant DNA. Make work plans for the laboratory context involving concepts and molecular biology techniques.
8. Participate in laboratory experiments. Analyze and interpret the data obtained in the laboratory works.

Prerequisites

Before the course unit the learner is expected to be able to:

1. Generally knowledge, of Biology, Biochemistry, Genetics and Microbiology.
2. It is also recommended to have knowledge of English.

Course contents

Structure and function of nucleic acids. Fundamental genetic mechanisms (replication, transcription and translation). Analysis of gene expression in prokaryotes and eukaryotes. Mutations and genetic recombination. Cell cycle control. Molecular biology of the neoplastic cell. Tools and Techniques of recombinant DNA technology.

Course contents (extended version)

1. Molecular basis of heredity.
2. DNA Replication.
3. RNA and proteins.
4. Chromatin structure Human Genome Organization
5. The gene expression control in prokaryotes and eukaryotes. Epigenetic control.
6. Spontaneous and induced mutation. Mutagens. Repair mechanisms of DNA damage
7. Chromosomal mutation.
8. Cell cycle control.
9. Molecular biology of the neoplastic cell.
10. Recombinant DNA: Overview
11. Program of practical classes / Theoretical-practical
 - Electrophoresis in agarose gels.
 - Restriction endonuclease analysis.
 - Extraction, purification and quantification of nucleic acids.
 - Polymerase chain reaction (PCR).
 - Preparation of competent cells and transformation with autonomous plasmids.
 - Evaluation of mutation and analysis of genomic sequences.
 - Discussion of scientific articles.

Recommended reading

1. Weaver R. F. (2011) Molecular Biology, 5rd ed. , McGraw Hill.
2. J. Sambrook, David W. Russell, (2001). Molecular cloning : a laboratory manual 3ª ed. , New York Cold Spring
3. Keith Wilson & John Walker, (2010). Principles and Techniques of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. 7th Edition. Cambrige University
4. Karp G. (2010) Cell Biology, 6th Edition, John Wiley & Sons (Ltd)
5. Lewin B. (2008) Genes IX, 9th ed. , Jones and Barlett Publishers.

Teaching and learning methods

Magistral classes using the classrooms equipped with datashow; laboratory manipulation of nucleic acids and genetic transformation in order to complement and consolidate the knowledge acquired in theoretical content, using laboratory rooms. Literature search, using their existing wireless network and libraries on the campus of Santa Apolonia.

Assessment methods

- Alternative 1 - (Regular, Student Worker) (Final, Supplementary, Special)
 - Laboratory Work - 25%
 - Final Written Exam - 75%

Language of instruction

Portuguese

Electronic validation

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30-11-2021	01-12-2021	01-12-2021	02-12-2021