

**COURSE DATA****Data Subject**

Code	43461
Name	Experimental models
Cycle	Master's degree
ECTS Credits	3.0
Academic year	2022 - 2023

Study (s)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
2210 - Master's Degree in Research in Molecular, Cellular and Genetics Biology	Faculty of Biological Sciences	1	First term
3102 - PhD in Biomedicine and Biotechnology	Doctoral School	0	First term

Subject-matter

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
2210 - Master's Degree in Research in Molecular, Cellular and Genetics Biology	6 - Experimental models	Obligatory

Coordination

Name	Department
OLMO MUÑOZ, MARCEL.LI DEL	30 - Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

SUMMARY

In this course, *students* will gain an *understanding of the basic* biological experimental models and resources available for them. In particular, it is intended that students achieve an advanced level of theoretical knowledge on key aspects of the various experimental models that will allow them to select the most suitable for their future research. It is intended specifically for each model organism that students could answer the following questions:

1) What are the basic features of each model?

2) what is known about it?



3) What are the available resources?

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

Relationship to other subjects of the same degree

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

Other requirements

The subject "experimental models" is taught in the Masters in Molecular Biology, Cell and Gene as a compulsory subject in the conceptual module. Students should begin taking general knowledge of Molecular Biology and Genetics.

COMPETENCES (RD 1393/2007) // LEARNING OUTCOMES (RD 822/2021)

2210 - Master's Degree in Research in Molecular, Cellular and Genetics Biology

- Students should apply acquired knowledge to solve problems in unfamiliar contexts within their field of study, including multidisciplinary scenarios.
- Students should be able to integrate knowledge and address the complexity of making informed judgments based on incomplete or limited information, including reflections on the social and ethical responsibilities associated with the application of their knowledge and judgments.
- Students should communicate conclusions and underlying knowledge clearly and unambiguously to both specialized and non-specialized audiences.
- To acquire basic skills to develop laboratory work in biomedical research.
- Students should possess and understand foundational knowledge that enables original thinking and research in the field.
- Be able to access to information tools in other areas of knowledge and use them properly.
- To be able to assess the need to complete the scientific, historical, language, informatics, literature, ethics, social and human background in general, attending conferences, courses or doing complementary activities, self-assessing the contribution of these activities towards a comprehensive development.
- Capacidad para identificar y evaluar la idoneidad de los organismos modelo utilizados en la investigación en biología molecular, celular y genética.

LEARNING OUTCOMES (RD 1393/2007) // NO CONTENT (RD 822/2021)

- Increase knowledge of common experimental model organisms
- Identify existing resources of each experimental model
- Identify opportunities for each experimental model
- Identify the limitations of each experimental model
- Evaluate the generation of models for specific experiments



DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. General Introduction. Virus and viroids.

Introduction. What is a model system? Experimental models more frequently used.

Virus and viroids. Basic biology of the virus more often used in research. Biological resources collections, mutants, specific databases. Biotechnological possibilities offered: evolution and regulation studies, protein production. Use as gene transfer vectors, such as use as vaccines and vaccine vectors. Transformation tools.

2. Escherichia coli and other prokaryotes used as model organisms.

Introduction. Biological model (structure). Genetic model (genome sequencing, phages, conjugation, transduction). Evolutionary model. Model in the study of proteins and proteomics. Biotechnological potential (heterologous protein production, model development of fermentation systems, ...). Specialized microbial resources. Other prokaryotic models: Bacillus subtilis and others.

3. Simple eukaryotic.

Remarkable biological aspects of *S. cerevisiae* as a eukaryotic model. Possibilities of genetic manipulation. Biological resources and information sources available. Useful yeast and other fungi. Biotechnological possibilities.

4. Plants

Characteristics of *A. thaliana*. Bioinformatics tools, databases, information search for genes of interest (Northern virtual, spatial and temporal expression, expression in different environmental conditions), search for mutants (insertional, micro RNAs, tilling). Biological resources available: collections of seeds and other stocks (libraries, clones, BACs, ESTs, vectors). Interest for other model plant species: maize, rice, woody, tomato. Biotechnological possibilities: plants with added- value, resistance to stress, phytoremediation

5. Invertebrates

Biology of the organization: advantages and disadvantages for different experimental applications. Transgenesis methods and types of constructs. The Gal4/UAS directed expression system. Strategies for classical mutagenesis. Reverse genetic techniques: targeted gene disruption and post-transcriptional silencing. Mutation analysis: mosaic generation technique with FLP / FRT. Studies of gene interactions: ordering genes in a route (epistasis) and dose-dependent interactions (enhancers and suppressors). Models of human genetic disease: loss or gain of function and pharmacology. Study routes pathogenesis and drug discovery in *Drosophila*. Biology and resources available to *C. elegans*.

**6. Vertebrates**

Mice, chickens, frogs and fish: Advantages and disadvantages, resources, biotechnology and biomedical applications.

7. Human

Model organisms; really inform about humans? Examples of successes and failures in translating results from model organisms to the human. The human as a subject of experimentation. Research possibilities in humans: non-invasive screening methods, cell culture, gene identification by linkage and association studies, gene therapy, stem cells, clinical trials and meta-analysis. Ethical and legal aspects: Law on Biomedical Research, Scientific Research Ethics Committees, and Biobanks. Transfer of basic scientific knowledge into clinical practice: translational medicine.

8. Cell cultures

Basic knowledge of cell cultures. Problems and limitations. Resources available

WORKLOAD

ACTIVITY	Hours	% To be attended
Theory classes	24,00	100
Other activities	4,00	100
Tutorials	2,00	100
Preparation of evaluation activities	45,00	0
TOTAL	75,00	

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The following methodological approaches will be used in this subject: attending lectures and tutorials. An overview of the topic will be presented in the lectures, with special emphasis on the key concepts. The most appropriate resources for a deepening of the subject will also be presented in these lectures, so that students complete their education.

The subject is devised to be developed in the form of presential and non-presential work.



EVALUATION

Assessment of student learning will be made by:

- 1) A single call theoretical and practical examination in to be held in the classroom. This test will be worth 100% of the mark and will be made after the end of classes. Exam questions may include multiple choice questions, and questions with short and long answers.
- 2) In addition the student will accumulate points associated with the assessment that the professor makes about his interest in the subject expressed as participation in organized discussions, the answers to the questions ask by the teacher during the sessions , tutoring assistance and / or any other type of activity carried out by the student in relation to the subject. It can get up to 5% of the final grade for the course.

The final grade for the course will be the sum of that obtained in the evaluation of the theoretical credits and additional activities as previously described.

REFERENCES

Basic

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- Microbiología de Prescott, Harley y Klein. Willey, J.M.; Sherwood, L.M. y Woolverton, C.J. 7ª ed. McGraw-Hill-Interamericana de España, S.A.U. 2009.
- Brock-Biología de los Microorganismos. Madigan, M.T., J.M Martinko, P.V. Dunlap y D.P. Clark. 12ª ed. Pearson. Addison Wesley. 2009.
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<http://www.sigmaaldrich.com/life-science/cell-culture/learning-center/ecacc-handbook.html>

<http://www-ijpb.versailles.inra.fr/en/sgap/equipes/variabilite/crg/>

<http://193.51.165.9/projects/FLAGdb++/HTML/index.shtml>

<http://www.gabi-kat.de/errorpages/404.html>

http://signal.salk.edu/tdna_FAQs.html

<http://tilling.fhcrc.org:9366/>

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http://www.arabidopsis.org/info/2010_projects/

<http://www.flybase.org>