

**COURSE DATA****DATA SUBJECT**

Code: 33064
Name: Endocrinology and reproduction
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 5
Academic year: 2025-26

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1100 - Degree in Biology	Facultat de Ciències Biològiques	4	First quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1100 - Degree in Biology	Fundamentals of health biology	ELECTIVES

COORDINATION

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SUMMARY

Endocrinology and Reproduction is a subject dealing with the hormonal mechanisms of regulation of homeostasis, development, growth and reproduction, while studying the reproductive process itself. It also addresses the analysis of the alterations of these processes and mechanisms, as well as therapeutic strategies and technology to solve them.

This is an optional subject belonging to the intensification Fundamentals of Health Biology (FBS), both theoretical and practical and is located in the first quarter of the fourth year, with subjects such as Clinical Biochemistry and Human Genetics. This course is complemented by clinical biochemistry that takes place in parallel, mainly in regard to certain diseases caused by alterations in the homeostasis of certain hormones.

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 student must have passed 120 ECTS

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Apreciación del rigor, el trabajo metódico, y la solidez de los resultados.

Aprendizaje autónomo y adaptación a nuevas situaciones.

Capacidad de análisis crítico de textos científicos.

Capacidad de elaborar artículos, informes o proyectos y de exponerlos a diferentes auditorios.

Capacidad de organización, planificación y gestión de la información usando bases de datos bibliográficas adecuadas.

Capacidad de resolución de problemas y toma de decisiones.

Capacidad de utilización de herramientas matemáticas y estadísticas.

Conocer la regulación endocrina de la función reproductiva y su modulación por factores externos.

Conocer las bases biológicas de las disfunciones en la regulación hormonal y la estrategias para su tratamiento.

Conocer los fundamentos de la tecnología de la reproducción humana y animal.

Conocer los principales métodos y técnicas experimentales aplicadas al estudio de las enfermedades humanas, su etiología y la efectividad de los tratamientos.

Conocer y saber aplicar el método científico.

Conocimiento de bases de legislación relacionada con la Biología.

Conocimiento de las enfermedades y disfunciones más frecuentes durante las distintas etapas de la vida.

Conocimiento de sistemas de gestión en tareas profesionales en Biología sanitaria.

Entender los mecanismos de la producción gamética y del encuentro gamético, sus posibles alteraciones y los tratamientos de las mismas.

Habilidad para el trabajo en equipo y en contextos multidisciplinares.

Potenciación de la capacidad de liderazgo.

Potenciar la creatividad, iniciativa y espíritu emprendedor.

Saber analizar datos usando herramientas estadísticas apropiadas.



Utilización del vocabulario específico de la Biología sanitaria.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION TO ENDOCRINOLOGY

UNIT 1. Background. General functioning of the hypothalamic-pituitary. Morphology of the hypothalamus and pituitary. Hypothalamic hormones. Neurohypophyseal hormones. Anterior pituitary hormones. Control of anterior pituitary hormone secretion by the hypothalamus. Neuroendocrine integration levels. The pineal gland: melatonin. Pineal rhythms and biological clocks

2. HORMONAL REGULATION OF GENERAL FUNCTIONS

UNIT 2. Hormonal regulation of tissue differentiation and growth. Regulation of secretion of growth hormone. Functions of growth hormone. Organization of the thyroid gland. Synthesis, secretion, transport, mechanism of action and metabolism of thyroid hormones. Functions of thyroid hormones. Control of thyroid gland function. Pathologies associated with thyroid disorders.

UNIT 3. Regulation of calcium and phosphate homeostasis. Physiological functions of calcium and phosphate. Synthesis and regulation of secretion of parathyroid hormone, calcitonin, and 1,25-dihydroxycholecalciferol (vitamin D3). Effects of interaction between parathyroid hormone, calcitonin, and 1,25-dihydroxycholecalciferol in bone, intestine and kidney. Action of other hormones in the homeostasis of calcium and phosphate. Pathologies associated with disorders of calcium metabolism.

UNIT 4. Hormonal regulation of nutrient metabolism. Islets of Langerhans. Physiological role of pancreatic hormones. Androgens as anabolic protein. Pathologies associated with glucose metabolism. Role of gastrointestinal hormones.

UNIT 5. Adaptation to stress. Organization of the adrenal glands. Synthesis, release, transport and metabolism of corticosteroids and catecholamines. Effect of stress on metabolism, reproduction and immune system. Pharmacological actions of glucocorticoids. Regulation of secretion of catecholamines. Stress-related pathologies.

UNIT 6. Control of water and salt balance. The renin-angiotensin regulation of aldosterone secretion. Actions of the renin-angiotensin, aldosterone, vasopressin (ADH) and natriuretic peptides. Regulation of secretion of aldosterone and vasopressin. Pathologies associated with disorders of aldosterone secretion.

UNIT 7. Endocrinology of sexual differentiation and development. Bipotential precursors of the gonads and genitalia. Differentiation primary chromosomal or genetic sex of the gonads. Secondary sexual differentiation of the internal and external genitalia, central nervous system and psychosexual. Development of the reproductive functions, fetal period, neonatal, infant, juvenile, prepubertal and adolescents (puberty). Mammary gland development: embryonic, adolescent pregnancy and lactation. Pathologies associated with disorders of sex development.

UNIT 8. Regulation of testicular and ovarian function. Anatomy of male and female reproductive organs. Control of ovarian and testicular function. The menstrual cycle.

UNIT 9. Mechanisms of sexual response. Reproductive behavior (phase of estrus or heat). Stages of male and female sexual response. Mechanisms of sexual response. Ejaculation.



3. ENDOCRINOLOGY OF REPRODUCTIVE FUNCTION

UNIT 7. Endocrinology of sexual differentiation and development. Bipotential precursors of the gonads and genitalia. Differentiation primary chromosomal or genetic sex of the gonads. Secondary sexual differentiation of the internal and external genitalia, central nervous system and psychosexual. Development of the reproductive functions, fetal period, neonatal, infant, juvenile, prepubertal and adolescents (puberty). Mammary gland development: embryonic, adolescent pregnancy and lactation. Pathologies associated with disorders of sex development.

UNIT 8. Regulation of testicular and ovarian function. Anatomy of male and female reproductive organs. Control of ovarian and testicular function. The menstrual cycle. UNIT 10. Gamete and embryo transport. Sperm transport. Transportation of eggs and embryos. Endocrine and paracrine regulation gamete and embryo transport.

UNIT 11 Implantation, pregnancy, childbirth and lactation. Fertilization, implantation and maternal-embryonic interactions. The placenta as an endocrine organ. Physiological adaptations during pregnancy. Physiology and endocrinology of parturition. Endocrinology of lactation. Associated pathologies.

4. BIRTH CONTROL, INFERTILITY, ASSISTED REPRODUCTION

UNIT 12. Birth control. Male and female contraception. Mechanisms of action and effects.

UNIT 13. Male and female infertility. Epidemiology of infertility. Causes of female infertility. Causes of male infertility. Recurrent early pregnancy loss. Effects of age on reproductive potential.

UNIT 14. Assisted reproduction techniques. Artificial insemination: definition and types. In vitro embryo production: oocyte maturation, fertilization and embryo culture. Embryo manipulation. Preservation of gametes and embryos

5. PRACTICAL LABORATORY

1. Endocrine control of glucose homeostasis.

2. Endocrine control of sexual and parental behaviour. Determination of hormonal levels by ELISA and immunohistochemistry.

3. Physiologic and phenotypic effects of sexual steroid levels.

4. The neuroendocrine system in animal models of genetic diseases.

5. Assisted reproduction techniques: gamete quality and cryopreservation.

6. SEMINARS AND TUTORIALS

Students will perform activities where they will have to think, understand and discuss about different issues or topics of interest related to the subject.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
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Tutorials	2,00
Theory	33,00
Laboratory	15,00
Total hours	50,00

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	20,00
Independent study and work	43,00
Preparation of lessons	12,00
Preparation for assessment activities	0,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	75,00

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The following teaching methods will be used for activities of this course:

- *Theory classes*, type lectures to be taught sequentially over the first quarter, so that they are integrated with the rest of proposed activities.
- *Laboratory practical sessions*. After the reading of the practice dash previously available in Aula Virtual, the students perform the proposed practices with the assistance of the teachers.
- *Seminar and Tutorials*: some one-hour sessions where students, in groups, will discuss on topics related to the subject using previously proposed materials (articles, reports, laboratory experiments, project sheets,...).

IMPORTANT NOTE: Virtual Classroom is considered the official notice board and via normal communication of information between teacher and students. Examination session, announcements about the schedule change, notification of grades and exam schedules will be announced review of the SSP and is student's responsibility to be aware of these communications and provide for the mailbox that the University provides under conditions suitable to receive the messages. Also asked the students in their email communications with teachers using e-mail account of the University and no other. Messages from other sources will be ignored.

EVALUATION

Evaluation of the knowledge of theory

We will perform an exam consisting of questions of short-medium response, on basic concepts and processes in Endocrinology and Reproduction, at the end of the semester, that will count 65% of the final mark of theory. The mark of this test **represents 65% of the final course grade.**



Assessment of practical skills

An examination to be held together with the theory at the end of the semester. This test may contain short questions and problems or experimental questions on classroom practices, and will be a **30% of the final course grade**.

Attendance at lab sessions, on line or at class is a prerequisite to pass the course (minimal attendance 4 sessions).

Evaluation of the seminar and tutorials

The evaluation of the Seminars and tutorial sessions will take into account the capacity of synthesis and integration of information of students, as well as the clarity and quality of discussion of contents and the active participation in the final session.

The mark obtained will represent **5% of the qualification of the course**.

A grade of approved (5), both in theory and practice, is required to pass the course and to get an overall rating equal to or greater than 5 out of 10.

REFERENCES

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