

**COURSE DATA****DATA SUBJECT****Code:** 33972**Name:** General Biology**Cycle:** Undergraduate Studies**ECTS Credits:** 6**Academic year:** 2025-26**STUDY (S)**

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1103 - Degree in Food Science and Technology	Facultat de Farmàcia i Ciències de L'alimentació	1	First quarter

**SUBJECT-MATTER**

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1103 - Degree in Food Science and Technology	General biology	BASIC

**COORDINATION**

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**SUMMARY**

General Biology is a basic training semiannual course of the first year of Science and Food Technology. It has a total of 6 ECTS. Due to their theoretical-experimental character, theoretical training (3.8 ECTS) is complemented by experiments conducted in the laboratory (1.5 ECTS). Such experiments include practical aspects of concepts and techniques studied, familiarizing students with scientific method and team work.

The primary objective of General Biology course is that students acquire basic knowledge of cells as basic units of structure and function of all living organisms.

The course starts by introducing the student to the diversity of life, grouped into domains bacteria, archaea and Eucarya. After specifying the main features of prokaryotic cells (bacteria and archaea) and eukaryotes (plants, fungi and animals), the course focuses on the latter, beginning to establish whose are the structural differences between plant and animal cells. From this point begins the journey through the different structures and processes in the cell.



The plasma membrane establish life boundaries: their selective permeability and transport are essential for maintaining integrity of the cell as a coordinated chemical system. Communication mechanisms are based on extracellular signal molecules produced by cells to communicate with their neighbors or distant cells. Also, an elaborate protein system allows cells to respond external signals. Extracellular components, plant cell wall and extracellular matrix of animal cells, establish fundamental differences between both type of cells: Plant cell wall allows life in non-isotonic conditions, while extracellular matrix of plant cells influences intercellular junctions, cell communication and intercellular recognition.

Cells have internal compartments delimited by membranes, including endoplasmic reticulum, Golgi, mitochondria, chloroplasts and the nucleus. These compartments provide a suitable environment to carry out specific functions. The nucleus contains the genetic material with the information necessary for the cell to carry out all functions for survival and reproduction. Mitochondria and chloroplasts are semiautonomous organelles that transform energy by using a chemical (mitochondria) or light (chloroplasts) source.

Ribosomes, non-membrane delimited organelles, carry out the genetic instructions contained in the nucleus. By the other side, cytoskeleton constitutes a network of fibers necessary for internal cell structure organization and cell mobility.

The perpetuation of the species is based on cell division. Mitotic division produces genetically identical daughter cells. Sexual reproduction require the reduction of cell chromosome number, that is performed through a special type of cell division: meiotic division.

For all living species, each cell is the vehicle of transmission of genetic information. The study of the the phenomenon of heredity and hereditary variation is called genetics. The acquisition of basic knowledge of this part of biology is essential to understand the molecular basis of disease and the application of recombinant DNA technology, which has allowed the development of several applications of genetics in medicine, agriculture, industry biotechnology, etc..

According to the above, course program is structured to achieve knowledge of cell structure and function, including the processes that allow the transmission of genetic information.

## PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE



## RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

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

## OTHER REQUIREMENTS

## COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Adquirir la formación básica para la actividad investigadora, siendo capaces de aplicar el método científico a la resolución de un problema, comprendiendo su importancia y sus limitaciones en materia sanitaria y nutricional.

Capacidad para transmitir ideas, analizar problemas y resolverlos con espíritu crítico, adquiriendo habilidades de trabajo en equipo y asumiendo el liderazgo cuando sea apropiado.

Desarrollo de habilidades para emprender estudios posteriores y actividades de formación continuada.

Know how to apply the scientific method and acquire skills for managing the main bibliographic sources.

Know the cell cycle and its regulation.

Know the structure and evolution of cells.

Understand cell function in general terms.

Understand the basic principles of genomic organisation, heredity and biological diversity.

Understand where the different cellular processes take place.

## DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

### Theory classes

Topic 1.-Introduction. Evolutionary history of biodiversity: the tree of life. General organization of prokaryote and eukaryote cell. The animal cell and plant cell.

Topic 2.-The plasma membrane. Membrane structure and function. Permeability and transport. Osmotic phenomena. Endocytosis and exocytosis.

Topic 3.-Cellular communication. Cell signaling types. Intracytoplasmic receptors. Cell surface receptors: ion channel-associated, G proteins-associated and enzyme-associated. Receptors with enzymatic activity.



Topic 4.-The extracellular components. Plant cell wall. Extracellular matrix of animal cells. Intercellular junctions.

Topic 5.-Cytoskeleton. Cytoskeleton Structure and function, microtubules, microfilaments and intermediate filaments. Cell motility.

Topic 6.-Endomembrane system. Endoplasmic reticulum. The Golgi complex. Lysosomes. Vacuoles. Vesicular transport. Other organelles: peroxisomes and glyoxysomes.

Topic 7.-Chloroplasts. Photosynthesis. Chloroplast structural features. The photosynthetic apparatus. Absorption of light. Light phase reactions. Photosynthetic CO<sub>2</sub> fixation.

Topic 8.- Mitochondria. Cell respiration. Mitochondria Structural features. General aspects of cell respiration.

Topic 9.-The cell nucleus. Nuclear components: nuclear envelope, chromatin, nucleolus. Chromatin structure: DNA packaging in chromosomes.

Topic 10.-The cell cycle. Cell cycle phases. Cell cycle control mechanisms . Cell division. Mitosis. Meiosis.

Topic 11.-Flow of genetic information: from gene to protein. Gene organization. The flow of information within the cell. The genetic code. Basic principles of transcription and translation.

Topic 12.-Introduction to genetics. Genetic variation and epigenetics. Location of genes on chromosomes. Sex-linked inheritance. Genetic disorders. Non-nuclear inheritance.

## **Laboratory sessions**

A total of 4 sessions, each session lasting 3 h 45 min.

Laboratory sessions are obligatory. Manual will be available in the virtual classroom web as well as in the laboratory. Sessions to be undertaken are:

### Session Title and content

- 1 The optical microscope: principles and management. Observation of histological preparations. Fresh stain: observation of oral mucosa epithelium.
- 2 Membrane permeability. Factors that affect it. Plasmolysis of onion epidermal cells.
- 3 Respiration in germinating seeds. Observation of mitosis in onion root cells
- 4 Preparation of histological sections. Observation of elodea and cellular ciclosis. Observation of microorganisms in a drop of pond water.

**WORKLOAD****PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES**

Activity	Hours
Tutorials	2,00
Theory	38,00
Seminar	2,00
Laboratory	15,00
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>57,00</b>

**NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES**

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	10,00
Independent study and work	0,00
Preparation of lessons	55,00
Preparation for assessment activities	23,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>88,00</b>

**TEACHING METHODOLOGY****Theory classes.**

For theory classes lectures will be given, since this method allows the lecturer to give key concepts to understanding the subject and recommend further detailed study. In some classes student participation will be used, both between students, and between students and lecturer.

**Laboratory sessions.**

In these classes students will be able to learn the practical applications of the knowledge gained in the theory classes.

**Tutorials.**

Tutorials will be carried out in small groups, where the teacher will direct students about everything related to the learning process, both in global and concrete terms, including the supervision of tasks.

**Seminars.**

The seminars will be held by an oral presentation and discussion of topics previously proposed by the teachers. In these workshops, students will exercise the ability to outline, summarize, write and orally express the topic chosen. Both the written preparation and the oral and written presentation must be carried out as a group (3-4 students) and all of them must participate in the presentation. After each



seminar there will be a debate where the majority of the participation should be between students.

## EVALUATION

### Evaluation

Knowledge gained during theory and lab classes, will be evaluated. **In order to be eligible**

**for examination, students must have attended all the laboratory sessions. If the student has enrolled for the first time on the course, this requirement extends also to attend all the tutorial sessions.**

**The maximum score is 10 points**, distributed according to the following criteria:

#### **Theoretical and practical written exam: Counts up to 9,0 points**

The exam will include questions about knowledge acquired in the theory (7,5 points) and laboratory sessions (1.5 points). The exam may include short and long questions, as well as multiple choice tests, where students must relate concepts learnt in different lessons.

#### **Seminars: Count up to 1 point**

Content and oral presentation will be evaluated.

### FINAL SCORE

The final grade will be made up of the sum of the individual parts examined. In order to sum the different parts, a minimum score of 4.5 points must be obtained in the theoretical and practical written exam. The seminar score will only be added to the final grade if the student have obtained at least this 4.5 points in the theoretical and practical written exam.

#### **- First Call**

There will be an examination of the whole subject at the end of the first semester/term. If the student does not sit first call exam, his grade will be "not present".

#### **- Second Call**

If the student has not passed the subject on first call, he can go to a second call. In this second call, the student will be examined again on all the theoretical and practical subjects.



Evidence of copying or plagiarism in any of the assessable tasks will result in failure to pass the subject and in appropriate disciplinary action being taken. Please note that, in accordance with article 13. d) of the Statute of the University Student (RD 1791/2010, of 30 December), it is the duty of students to refrain from using or participating in dishonest means in assessment tests, assignments or university official documents.

In the event of fraudulent practices, the "**Action Protocol for fraudulent practices at the University of Valencia**" will be applied (ACGUV 123/2020): <https://www.uv.es/sgeneral/Protocols/C83sp.pdf>

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