COURSE OUTLINE

1. GENERAL

SCHOOL	AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES		
ACADEMIC UNIT	AGRICULTURE		
LEVEL OF STUDIES	UNDERGRADUATE		
COURSE CODE	AGR_400	**SEMESTER OF STUDIES**	4th
COURSE TITLE	Molecular Biology		

INDEPENDENT TEACHING ACTIVITIES *if credits are awarded for separate components of the course, e.g. lectures, laboratory exercises, etc. If the credits are awarded for the whole of the course, give the weekly teaching hours and the total credits*	**WEEKLY TEACHING HOURS**	**CREDITS**
Lectures	3	
Laboratory exercises	2	
Total	5	5
Add rows if necessary. The organisation of teaching and the teaching methods used are described in detail at (4).		

COURSE TYPE *general background, special background, specialised general knowledge, skills development*	special background, specialised general knowledge, skills development
PREREQUISITE COURSES:	Typically, there are no prerequisite courses. Students must have basic knowledge of Genetics.
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION and EXAMINATIONS:	Greek. Teaching may be performed in English in case foreign students attend the course.
IS THE COURSE OFFERED TO ERASMUS STUDENTS	Yes (English)
COURSE WEBPAGE (URL)	

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learning outcomes

The course learning outcomes, specific knowledge, skills and competences of an appropriate level, which the students will acquire with the successful completion of the course are described.

Consult Appendix A

- *Description of the level of learning outcomes for each qualifications cycle, according to the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area*
- *Descriptors for Levels 6, 7 & 8 of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning and Appendix B*
- *Guidelines for writing Learning Outcomes*

The course aims at introducing the students to the concepts of Molecular Biology.

By completing this course, the students are expected to have achieved the following skills and capabilities.:

- Comprehensive, detailed understanding of genomic organization and the flow of biological information
- Understand the chemical properties biomolecules (DNA, RNA)
- Understand chromosome structure and chromatin organization
- Describe DNA replication
- Understand regulation of transcription in prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells.
- Understand translation and protein synthesis.
- Gain the knowledge required to design, execute, and analyze the results of basic molecular biology experimentation.
- The ability to evaluate conclusions that are based on molecular biology data.

- The ability to recognize the experimental rationale of molecular studies as they are described in peer-reviewed research articles and books.

General Competences

Taking into consideration the general competences that the degree-holder must acquire (as these appear in the Diploma Supplement and appear below), at which of the following does the course aim?

Search for, analysis and synthesis of data and information, with the use of the necessary technology	*Project planning and management*
Adapting to new situations	*Respect for difference and multiculturalism*
Decision-making	*Respect for the natural environment*
Working independently	*Showing social, professional and ethical responsibility and sensitivity to gender issues*
Teamwork	*Criticism and self-criticism*
Working in an international environment	*Production of free, creative and inductive thinking*
Working in an interdisciplinary environment	*……*
Production of new research ideas	*Others…*
	…….

Generally, by the end of this course the student will, furthermore, have develop the following general abilities (from the list above):

Searching, analysis and synthesis of facts and information, as well as using the necessary technologies
Decision making
Independent work
Teamwork
Working in an interdisciplinary environment
Project planning and management
Production of new research ideas
Promotion of free, creative and inductive thinking

3. SYLLABUS

1. Genome. The flow of biological information. The central dogma of Molecular Biology.
2. DNA is the hereditary material. Structure and physicochemical properties of DNA and RNA molecules.
3. Chromosome structure, bacterial and eukaryotic chromosomes. DNA packaging. Nucleosome, chromatin structure.
4. Genome size. Repetitive DNA. Phage and viral genetic material.
5. DNA replication. DNA replication enzymes. Chromatin replication.
6. DNA damage and repair.
7. Transcription. Messenger RNA (mRNA). Transcription initiation – elongation – termination. Enzymes of transcription. Regulatory elements.
8. Regulation of transcription. DNA – protein interactions. Signaling cascades in the regulation of transcription. Gene silencing.
9. RNA processing. Polyadenylation, alternative splicing. RNA editing. RNA degradation.
10. Protein synthesis. The ribosome. tRNA, tRNA, aminoacyl – tRNA synthetases.
11. The genetic code. Overview of translation. Open reading frame mutations.
12. Protein synthesis. Translation critical factors, rRNA and their role in translation. Protein synthesis in prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells.
13. Post translational modification. Epigenetic and chemical modifications. Protein degradation.

Laboratory exercises

- DNA isolation
- Total RNA isolation
- Quantitative and qualitative evaluation of DNA και RNA
- Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR).
- DNA manipulation. Restriction Enzyme digestion and ligation of DNA
- Agarose gel electrophoresis.

4. TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS - EVALUATION

DELIVERY *Face-to-face, Distance learning, etc.*	Face to face lectures.
USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES *Use of ICT in teaching, laboratory education, communication with students*	Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) (e.g. Microsoft PowerPoint) in teaching. The contents of the course of each chapter are uploaded on the internet, that the students can freely download using a password which is provided to them at the beginning of the course.
TEACHING METHODS *The manner and methods of teaching are described in detail.* *Lectures, seminars, laboratory practice, fieldwork, study and analysis of bibliography, tutorials, placements, clinical practice, art workshop, interactive teaching, educational visits, project, essay writing, artistic creativity, etc.* *The student's study hours for each learning activity are given as well as the hours of non-directed study according to the principles of the ECTS*	See table below
STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION *Description of the evaluation procedure* *Language of evaluation, methods of evaluation, summative or conclusive, multiple choice questionnaires, short-answer questions, open-ended questions, problem solving, written work, essay/report, oral examination, public presentation, laboratory work, clinical examination of patient, art interpretation, other.* *Specifically, defined evaluation criteria are given, and if and where they are accessible to students.*	Final mandatory written examination, full length questions and / or multiple-choice questions, as well as questions based on the laboratory work. Minimum pass grade= 5, scale 0-10. All the above are taking place in Greek as well as in English for foreign students (e.g. ERASMUS students) if any.

Activity	***Semester workload***
Lectures (3 contact hours per week x 13 weeks)	39
Laboratory exercises (2 contact hours per week x 6 weeks)	12
Writing laboratory reports	6
Hours for private study of the student, preparation and attendance mid-term or/and final examinations.	68
Total number of hours for the Course (25 hours of workload per ECTS credit)	***125 hours (total student workload)***

5. ATTACHED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- *Suggested bibliography:*

1. Genes VIII, Lewin 2003, Benjamin Cummings; United States Ed edition (December 15, 2003)
2. Principles of Molecular Biology. B. Tropp 2014 Jones and Bartlett Publishers, Inc.
3. Molecular Biology of the Cell, 4th edition. Bruce Alberts, Alexander Johnson, Julian Lewis, Martin Raff, Keith Roberts, and Peter Walter.New York: Garland Science; 2002.
4. Molecular Biology: Principles of Genome Function. Nancy L Craig, 2014. Oxford University Press.

- *Related academic journals:*

1. Nature
2. Science
3. Cell
4. Plant Molecular Biology
5. The Plant Cell
6. Gene
7. Molecular Biology Reporter
8. New Phytologist