

Primatology

Code: 100748
ECTS Credits: 3

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500250 Biology	OT	4	0

Contact

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Use of languages

Principal working language: catalan (cat)
Some groups entirely in English: No
Some groups entirely in Catalan: No
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Other comments on languages

The content of different subjects will be explained using visual material. The main literature and ppts will be in English

Teachers

Javier Quesada Lara
Aurora Ruíz Herrera Moreno

Prerequisites

It is assumed that the student has previously acquired enough solid knowledge on subjects like Genetics and Human biology

Objectives and Contextualisation

The course of Primatology shows the panorama of current primates in their biological aspects in general, and in taxonomic and ethological in particular. It also analyzes the phylogeny and evolution of primates and the aspects that affects their conservation. In addition, we analyze the importance of models in biomedical research and paleoanthropological research, in order to understand ourselves.

Skills

- Analyse and interpret the origin, evolution, diversity and behaviour of living beings.
- Be able to analyse and synthesise
- Be able to organise and plan.
- Characterise, manage, conserve and restore populations, communities and ecosystems.
- Control processes and provide services related to biology.
- Design and carry out biodiagnoses and identify and use bioindicators.
- Develop a sensibility towards environmental issues.

- Develop critical thinking and reasoning and communicate ideas effectively, both in the mother tongue and in other languages.
- Develop independent learning strategies.
- Respect diversity in ideas, people and situations

Learning outcomes

1. Be able to analyse and synthesise.
2. Be able to organise and plan.
3. Define the role of the primates in the identification of disease-causing agents.
4. Develop a sensibility towards environmental issues.
5. Develop critical thinking and reasoning and communicate ideas effectively, both in the mother tongue and in other languages.
6. Develop independent learning strategies.
7. Explain the underlying biological causes of human social behaviour.
8. Identify the principal natural factors that have intervened in the distribution of human populations.
9. Interact with and advise government institutions operating in the field of social policy and population and public health policy.
10. Interpret human variability as a source of individualisation.
11. Interpret phylogeographic analyses of the human species.
12. Respect diversity in ideas, people and situations.
13. Summarise and interpret the biology, evolution and behaviour of the order Primates.

Content

- Definition and evolutionary tendencies. Evolution of Primates.
- Diversification in current primates.
- Biogeography, ecology and adaptations to the environment.
- Chromosomal characteristics, karyotype and intraspecific variability.
- Mechanisms of chromosomal speciation, break points and synthetic groups.
- Databases and analysis of Primates genomes
- Methods for studying primates behavior
- Socio-sexual behavior in primates.
- Primate Cognition. Animal cultures
- Communication in primates.

Methodology

Lectures are divided into three blocks: 1) Taxonomy and Morphological Evolution 2) Genetic evolution and specific diversification and 3) Ethology; each bloc will be taught by a different teacher. In each one there will be a practice that will be developed within the same block.

At the end of the course, there will be a global seminar with all the students where different topics will be discussed directed by the three teachers.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Type: Directed			
Computer practices	2	0.08	
Fieldwork	2	0.08	7, 13
Laboratory practices	1	0.04	6, 5, 12, 13, 1, 2
Lectures	19	0.76	3, 6, 5, 12, 13, 1, 2
Seminars	2	0.08	3, 5, 12, 13, 1, 2
Type: Supervised			
Tutorials	2	0.08	
Type: Autonomous			
Personal study	45	1.8	

Evaluation

As it is a continuous evaluation, the course will consider the different activities of the student in the classroom, as well as the practices and seminars. It will be evaluated by means of a written test that includes the three parts of the subject, a test answered by the working group of the seminar, and the practices of each of the 3 sections that the subject consists of. The final result will be the weighted sum of each of the parts.

- There will be a written test to evaluate the theoretical part of the subject (50%)
- The practices will measure 30% of the final mark (10% for each of the 3 practical sessions). Assessment will take into account both the attitude of the students as well as the work carried out in the laboratory itself and the questionnaires required.
- The seminar will have a group assessment that will equal 20% of the final grade. All students in the same group will have the same grade in this test

To be eligible for the retake process, the student should have been previously evaluated in a set of activities equaling at least two thirds of the final score of the course or module. Thus, the student will be graded as "No Avaluable" if the weighthin of all conducted evaluation activities is less than 67% of the final score

Attendance to practical or field sessions is mandatory. Students missing more than 20% of programmed sessions will be graded as "No Avaluable".

Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Exam	50%	2	0.08	3, 6, 5, 8, 9, 11, 10, 13, 1, 2
Practice assessment	30%	0	0	6, 5, 12, 13, 1, 2
Seminars	20%	0	0	3, 5, 7, 11, 12, 13, 4, 1, 2

Bibliography

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY:

FLEAGLE JG.- Primate adaptation and evolution. Academic Press

BOYD R & SILK JB. Como evolucionaron los humanos. Ariel Ciencia

Specific literature

It will be given during the course.