

Molecular Anthropology

Code: 100752
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500250 Biology	OT	4	0

The proposed teaching and assessment methodology that appear in the guide may be subject to changes as a result of the restrictions to face-to-face class attendance imposed by the health authorities.

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

All supporting materials will be in English. Classes will be taught in Catalan and some in English. Students performing the course work in English will have a plus in the final classification of the work of up to 1 point.

Prerequisites

It is recommended to have acquired the basis of the courses of Genetics, Molecular Genetics, Human Biology, Health and Environment, and Evolution.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The course of Molecular Anthropology is integrated in the field of Human Biology. It is a relatively new field of research, in fact, there have been less than 50 years since Emil Zuckerkandl, in the symposium "Classification and Human Evolution" (1962, Wartenstein Burg, Austria), formally introduced the designation. As the name suggests, Molecular Anthropology, focuses on the study of human evolution and variation using molecular tools.

The main objective of this course is to deepen in the study of the tools and methods used in the study of variation and evolution of humans. In this regard, it stresses the Human Genome Diversity Project as a turning point for Molecular Anthropology since it has played a key role in changing perspective of Molecular Anthropology from genetics to genomics. The most recent projects to analyze human variation, the 1000 Genomes and HapMap, will be discussed. The problems of the study of human genetic variation in both recent and ancient remains will be explored. Also, the genetic variation as a tool to reconstruct the evolutionary history and for mapping disease susceptibility variants and with pharmacogenomic interest will be approached.

Competences

- Analyse and interpret the origin, evolution, diversity and behaviour of living beings.
- Apply statistical and computer resources to the interpretation of data.
- Be able to analyse and synthesise
- Be able to organise and plan.

- Characterise, manage, conserve and restore populations, communities and ecosystems.
- Design and carry out biodiagnoses and identify and use bioindicators.
- Isolate, identify and analyse material of biological origin.
- Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
- Understand the biological characteristics of human nature.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse present and past intra-population and inter-population variability in our species.
2. Apply statistical and computer resources to the interpretation of data.
3. Be able to analyse and synthesise.
4. Be able to organise and plan.
5. Identify the biological characteristics of human nature at all levels of organisation.
6. Interpret human variability as a source of individualisation.
7. Interpret values of human demography and epidemiology.
8. Manipulate human samples and perform morphological, molecular and chromosome determinations for the diagnosis and prevention of diseases.
9. Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
10. Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
11. Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
12. Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
13. Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
14. Work in teams.

Content

THEORY:

Unit 1. Foundations of molecular anthropology: from morphology to the HapMap Project and the 1000 genomes project

Unit 2. Tools and Methods in Molecular Anthropology

Unit 3. Genetic variations in humans and other primates: Diversity, phylogeography and selection

Unit 4. Quantitative Genetics: applications in molecular anthropology

Unit 5. Confluence of molecular anthropology and epidemiology

Unit 6. Ancient DNA: problems and applications

Unit 7. Application of molecular anthropology in forensic sciences

SEMINARS:

Research in Biological Anthropology

COMPUTER PRACTICES:

HapMap Project
1000 genomes project
Applications in Genetic Epidemiology
Definitions of work themes and bibliographical search

LAB PRACTICES:

DNA extraction and PCR
Detection of SNPs
DNA sequencing

*Unless the requirements enforced by the health authorities demand a prioritization or reduction of these contents.

Methodology

The development of the training activities of the course is based on: theory classes, seminars, classroom practices and laboratory and computer practices, each of them with its specific methodology. Likewise, a series of virtual-type activities are proposed that will allow the student to take an active role in the teaching-learning process.

Classes of theory: The student acquires the scientific knowledge of the subject by attending theory classes. These are classes with TIC-TAC support in which the teacher exposes the subject but also asks for the participation of the student. Likewise, activities prior to the sessions are proposed that allow the student to intervene more actively in the teaching-learning process. In this sense, some theoretical sessions are devoted to topics related to group work carried out by students, both for the resolution of doubts and the presentation of key concepts, as well as for the presentation of the work itself. The audiovisual material used in class can be found by the student in the Moodle space of the subject.

Seminars: Specialists are invited and in advance the student will be provided with the topics to be debated in the seminar; The student must prepare the seminars collaboratively with their classmates.

Classes of practices: The knowledge acquired in theory classes and in personal study are applied to the resolution of practical cases. Students work in small groups allowing them to acquire the ability to work in groups and analysis and synthesis. It also allows to apply statistical resources in the interpretation of data. The student can access the practice guides through the Moodle space

The main vehicular language will be Catalan. However, all the support material will be in English and the sessions on the 1000 genomes and HapMap projects will be done in English. The work of the subject (both digital support and oral presentation) can be done in Catalan, Spanish or English. Students who use the English language will have a plus in the final grade of the work of up to 1 point.

*The proposed teaching methodology may experience some modifications depending on the restrictions to face-to-face activities enforced by health authorities.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Computer practices	8	0.32	1, 2, 5, 6, 3
Laboratory Practices	10	0.4	1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 3, 14
Seminars	4	0.16	1, 2, 5, 7, 13, 12, 11, 9, 10, 3, 4, 14

Theory classes	28	1.12	1, 5, 6, 7, 13, 12, 11, 9, 10, 3, 14
Type: Supervised			
Tutorship (individual or group)	4	0.16	
Type: Autonomous			
Group work	40	1.6	1, 2, 5, 13, 12, 11, 9, 10, 3
Individual Study	30	1.2	1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 13, 12, 11, 9, 10, 3, 4
Participation in virtual learning activities	6	0.24	5
Practice report	14	0.56	1, 2, 6, 8, 3, 4
Preparation of seminars and internships	6	0.24	1, 2, 5, 3, 14

Assessment

For the evaluation of the subject, a continuous assessment model will be followed. The participation of the student, the preparation and presentation of the group work, the practical materials, the critical summary of a group work and the exam rate will be taken into account, in the following proportions:

Exam: 35%

Group work: 30%

Critical summary of a group work: 10%

Student participation in face-to-face and virtual learning activities: 5%

Training materials: 20%

In the development of all the activities, including those of the theoretical typology, the student will be asked to previously prepare some concepts, and in the case of the group work, the whole process of elaboration during the semester will be taken into account.

Group work (both digital support and oral presentation and defense) can be done in Catalan, Spanish or English. Students who use the English language will have a bonus in the final grade of the group work of up to 1 point.

There will be an integrative examination of the contents of the subject that students must overcome with a minimum of 4.

Recovery: in the case of necessity, the note of the group work and the integrative examination can be recovered. To participate in the recovery, students must have been previously evaluated in a set of activities the weight of which equals a minimum of two thirds of the total grade of the subject. Therefore, the students will obtain the "Not Evaluable" qualification when the evaluation activities carried out have a weight lower than 67% in the final grade.

The grade of the summary evaluation can be raised, in this case, the classification that will be considered will be the last one, regardless of whether it is superior or inferior to that obtained previously.

The average mark of the different evaluable parts (Participation of the student in the face-to-face and virtual learning activities, Practical materials, Group work, Critical summary of a group work, Examination) must be equal to or greater than 5.0.

*Student's assessment may experience some modifications depending on the restrictions to face-to-face activities enforced by health authorities.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Critical summary of a group work	10%	0	0	3, 4
Exam	35%	0	0	6, 7, 3, 4
Participation in face-to-face and virtual learning activities	5%	0	0	1, 2, 5, 8, 3, 14
Practical materials	20%	0	0	8, 13, 12, 11, 9, 10
Preparation, presentation and defense of group work	30%	0	0	1, 13, 12, 11, 9, 10, 3, 4, 14

Bibliography

Basic bibliography:

Crawford MH. 2007. Anthropological Genetics: Theory, Methods and Applications. Cambridge University Press.

Destro-Bisol G. 2010. Molecular Anthropology in the Genomic Era. Journal of Anthropological Sciences, 88:93-112

Relethford J. 2013. The Human Species: An Introduction to Biological Anthropology. 9th Edition. McGraw-Hill.

Relethford JH. 2003. Reflections of Our Past. Boulder: Westview Press

Specific bibliography:

It will be given during the course.