

## Physiology

Code: 102633  
ECTS Credits: 9

**2025/2026**

Degree	Type	Year
Veterinary Medicine	FB	2

## Contact

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## Teachers

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## Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

## Prerequisites

It is assumed that the student has a sufficient baggage of physics and chemistry, to enable the understanding of physiological functions.

It is essential to have completed the first year of the degree and to have acquired knowledge of Cell Biology, Biochemistry, Morphology I and Structure and Function of the Nervous System.

It is important to attend simultaneously subjects such as Morphology II, some of which are complementary to those of the Physiology course.

## Objectives and Contextualisation

The objective of the subject is to achieve sufficient knowledge of the functions of the different organs and systems and to be able to understand and explain how they work coordinately to cope with the challenges the animals face. The specific objectives are to know and understand.

1 - The functions of blood, hemostasis, hemodynamics and regulation of the cardiovascular system.

2 - The functions of the respiratory system and the renal system and their relation to the regulation of pH of physiological fluids and hydroelectrolytic equilibrium.

3 - The functions of the endocrine system as a regulator of the energy and intermediate metabolism and of the adaptations of the organism in the mid and long terms.

4 - The reproductive function in males and females and its regulation.

5 - The digestive function and the adaptations of the digestive system to dietary conditions and to the presence of microbiota.

6 - The immune system, the tolerance of self-structures and the innate and adaptive defensive responses of the organism.

This subject should provide the basis for detecting, evaluating, understanding and treating the pathological situations that the clinical veterinarian faces in his/her professional activity. It should also be the basis for understanding concepts that will be explained later, such as those related to nutrition and animal production, and the basis of pharmacological action.

## **Competences**

- Analyse, synthesise and resolve problems and make decisions.
- Apply scientific method to professional practice, including medicine
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the physical, chemical and molecular bases of the main processes in the animal organism.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the structure and functions of healthy animals.
- Demonstrate knowledge of English to communicate both orally and in writing in academic and professional contexts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the rights and duties of the veterinarian, with a special focus on ethical principles
- Draft and present satisfactory professional reports, always maintaining the required confidentiality.

## **Learning Outcomes**

1. Analyse, synthesise and resolve problems and make decisions.
2. Analyse the relation between the type of immune response that develops and the characteristics of the pathogen: the method and anatomical place of entry, the effector mechanisms of the response and the evasion mechanisms.
3. Apply scientific method to professional practice, including medicine
4. Define the properties of innate and adaptive immune response and defend clonal selection theory: a lymphocyte, an antigen receptor.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of English to communicate both orally and in writing in academic and professional contexts.
6. Draft and present satisfactory professional reports, always maintaining the required confidentiality.
7. Explain the basic concepts of the mechanisms of functional regulation in each system.
8. Explain the interrelation between the different organs and systems, and their hierarchical organisation.
9. Explain the main physical, chemical and molecular bases that ensure the correct functioning of the organism.
10. Explain the mechanisms for activating and regulating cellular and humoral immune response.
11. Foresee the qualitative and quantitative repercussions of disorder in a particular mechanism for the organism as a whole.
12. Identify the variables that enable evaluation of the functions of each system.
13. Recognise the magnitude and time dimension of the physiological changes that take place in the adaptation of an animal to its surroundings.
14. Recognise the mechanisms through which the environment induces changes in animals' functions.
15. Use correct and suitable physiological terminology.

16. Use physiological concepts to solve problems related with clinical and experimental situations or related with the productive field.

## Content

Lectures (62h)

Presentation of the subject

### BLOCK IMMUNOLOGY

1- Functions of the immune system (resp. J.R Palacio) 2 ECTS

1.1. Elements of the immune system. Innate immunity Cells and proteins. The complement system. / Theme of Self-Learning (AAP).

1.2. Structure of immunoglobulins (Igs) Antigen-antibody interaction. TCR and BCR

1.3. Organization of immunoglobulin genes: Recombination mechanisms. The T cell receptor (TCR). Complex CD3: TCR signaling complex. TCR / MHC / antigen trimolecular interaction.

1.4. Major Histocompatibility Complex (MHC) Class I and Class II. Structural characteristics and function. Restriction of T response by MHC. Polymorphism and peptide binding. MHC-peptide complex: interactions, conformational changes, recognition surface, molecular mimicry

1.5. Antigenic processing and recognition. Synthesis of molecules of MHC class I and class II. Processing paths. "Cross priming". Presentation of antigens: requirements, signals accessories. Recognition of the antigen by the T cells: immunological synapse.

1.6. T Lymphocytes . Ontogeny and maturation of T cells. Positive and negative clonal selection. Restriction for MHC and self tolerance. T cell populations : TCRab and TCRgd. Functional subpopulations: Helper (Th), cytotoxic (Tc) and regulatory (Treg) T cells. NKT cells. Memory T cells.

1.7. B Lymphocytes. Ontogeny and maturation of the B lymphocytes. Phenotypic and functional differences in B cells. Effector functions of B cells: antibody production and antigen presentation (APC). Subpopulations of B cells: B-1 and B-2 cells. T-dependent and T-independent antigens.

1.8. Professional Antigen Presentation Cells (APCs). Conventional and plasmacytoid dendritic cells: Function and anatomical location. Other cells: mast cells, eosinophils, basophils and NK cells..

1.9. Cytokines Properties. Functional redundancy. Families of cytokines. Receptors. Cytokines of innate and adaptive immunity. Chemokines, Chemotaxis and homing of leukocytes. Families of chemokines and their receptors. Specificity, properties and main effects.

Organization of the immune response.

1.10. Cellular immunity. From the innate to the adaptive response . Activation of T cells. TCR interaction, MHC and accessory molecules. Signal Transmission. Third activation signal: micro-environment of cytokines. Lymphocyte activation markers T: IL2R, Class II T cells and B memory. Phenotypic characteristics. Effector T cells. Th1 and Th2. T cytotoxic lymphocytes. Mechanisms of cytotoxicity.

1.11. Humoral immune response. Activation of B lymphocytes. Antigen recognition. Second signal transduction. Th follicular cells (Tfh). Lymphoid follicles and germinal center formation. Somatic hypermutation Maturation of affinity.

1.12. Isotope change and microenvironment in the lymph nodes. Humoral responses against T-independent and T-dependent antigens. Effector function of the antibodies. Anatomical distribution of antibodies.

1.13. Regulation of the immune response Self-regulation. Immune Tolerance: central (clonal deletion) and peripheral (ignorance, anergy, deletion, suppression) tolerance. Mechanisms and elements of regulation during and after the immune response. Apoptosis (AICD). T regulatory lymphocytes: natural regulators (nTr), induced regulators (Tr1).

1.14. Immune response towards bacteria, fungi, parasites and viruses. Mechanisms of evasion of the immune response. Immune memory. Autoimmunity in response to viral infections. HIV infection.

Ineffective immune response

1.15. Hypersensitivity reactions Concept of hypersensitivity. Type I. Type II. Type III. Type IV.

1.16. Autoimmunity. Tolerance and autoimmunity. Mechanisms.

## BLOCK: PHYSIOLOGY

2-Functions of blood, circulation and respiration (resp. M.T. Martín) 1.7 ECTS

2.1 Blood functions. Cellular elements, proteins and other solutes. Hemostasis; adhesion and platelet aggregation. Coagulation and fibrinolysis. Tissue repair

2.2 Cardiac cycle (I). Phases of the heart cycle. Isovolumetric contraction and relaxation. Relationship between ECG, pressures and volumes of the different compartments.

2.3 Cardiac cycle (II). Cardiac sounds and murmurs. Systolic and diastolic sounds. Regulation of the heart cycle.

2.4 Hemodynamics of the arterial, capillary, venous and lymphatic circulation.

2.5 Regulation of blood pressure (I). Nervous mechanisms. Concept of baroreceptor. Nervous centers and afferent pathways. Neurotransmitters involved.

2.6 Regulation of blood pressure (II). Endocrine regulation. Role of the kidney in the regulation of blood pressure. Integration of the different mechanisms: pharmacological approach.

2.7 Regulation of local blood flow. Mechanisms of hyperemia and self-regulation. Local control factors.

2.8 Capillary circulation: mechanisms for exchange and dissemination.

2.9 Mechanics of respiration. Respiratory cycle. Volumes and pressures. Functions of the diaphragm.

2.10 Gas exchange. Oxygen and carbon dioxide exchange at the alveolar and peripheral level. Gas transport

2.11 Regulation of breathing. Central and peripheral mechanisms of breathing regulation. Breathing in birds.

3-Endocrine system and metabolic regulation (resp. S. Casabella and E. Fernández) 2.5 ECTS

3.1. Chemical mechanisms of regulation. Concept of hormone and target tissue. Hormone receptors. Types of hormones and hormonal secretions. Factors that modify the response to hormones.

3.2. Mechanisms of action. Intracellular mediators: concept of second messenger. Relationship between mechan

3.3. General organization of the endocrine system. Pituitary gland. Hypo

3.4. Regulation of oxidative metabolism. Thyroid hormones. Synthesis, s

3.5. Regulation of intermediary metabolism (i): Control of glycemia in pos

3.6. Regulation of intermediary metabolism (ii): Control of glycemia in em

3.7.Regulation of intermediary metabolism (iii): Response to chronic adverse situations. Glucocorticoids. Effects (

3.8. Regulation of intermediary metabolism (iv): Growth hormone. Direct effects. Indirect effects. Insulin-like grow

3.9. Energy metabolism. Energy balance. Endocrine functions of adipose

3.10 Thermoregulation. Mechanisms of heat generation and loss. Fever,

3.11. Chronobiology. Rhythmicity in animal function and its adaptive valu

4: Digestive system (M. Martin resp.) 1.1 ECTS

4.1. Gastrointestinal functions. Control of gastrointestinal functions. Enteric nervous system. Gastrointestinal hor

4.2. Gastrointestinal secretions: salivary, gastric, pancreatic and biliary. F

4.3. Swallowing; gastric filling and emptying. Motor patterns and regulati

4.4. Small intestine motility: interdigestive and postprandial patterns. Seg

4.5. Large intestine: Functions and motor patterns. Mechanisms of regul

4.6. Intestinal digestion. Absorption and secretion of nutrients, water and

4.7. Digestive adaptations in ruminants and other herbivores. Digestion b

5-Renal system and water and salt balance (resp. E. Fernandez) 0.9 ECTS

5.1. Hormones regulating calcium and phosphate homeostasis. Parathyroid hormone, vitamin D and calcitonin. Physiology of the bone. Bone mechanosensory system.

5.2. Homeostasis of Sodium and Potassium. Renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system. Kallikrein-kinin system. Atrial natriuretic factor.

5.3. Vasopressin. Actions, control of its secretion. Relationship with other hormones involved in the regulation of water and salt balance.

5.4. Kidney function. The nephron. Renal circulation, glomerular filtration and its regulation. Tubulo-glomerular feed back. Renal Clearance. Estimating glomerular filtration rate.

5.5. Tubular functions. Tubular reabsorption mechanisms. Tubular secretion. Mechanisms of urine concentration and dilution.

5.6. Regulation of the acid-base balance. Blood and tissue buffer systems. Metabolic, respiratory and renal influences

5.7. Micturition. Mechanisms and neural pathways involved. Excretory function in birds.

6-Reproduction (P.Vergara P. resp.) 0.8ECTS

6.1. Sex biology Sexual differentiation. Sexual steroids.

6.2. Testicular function. Testicular compartments. Regulation and organization of spermatogenesis.

6.3. Ovarian function and ovarian cycle. Phases of follicular development. Ovulation luteogenesis.Luteolysis

6.4. Regulation of the ovarian cycle. Regulation of gonadotrophin secretion. Types of cycles: Menstrual cycle; Estrous cycle; Polyestral and monoestral females.

6.5. Environmental influences on reproduction. Effects of the photoperiod: seasonal and non-seasonal animals. f Sexual intercourse-induced ovulation. Effects of social interaction.

6.6. Androgen functions in adults. Secretions of the male reproductive system. Function of estrogens and progestagens in the female reproductive system. Changes in the oviduct, uterus, cervix and vagina during the ovarian cycle. Genital reflexes: Erection, ejaculation.

6.7. Pregnancy: Endocrine recognition and support in domestic mammals. Hormonal changes related to parturition. Functions of oxytocin. Restoration of cycles after parturition.

6.8. Development of the mammary gland. Mechanism of milk secretion. Lactation. Milk ejections. Influence of lactation in ovarian function.

6.9. Reproduction in birds.

Practical works (10.5 h):

- Hematology: Blood cell counts, hematocrit and leukocyte formula

- Separation and functional evaluation of lymphocytes

- *ECG in the dog\**

- Structure and function of lymphoid organs

- *Renal function tests in the dog.\**

*\*practical works with live animals in small groups*

Seminars (10 h):

1- Case studies on circulation and respiration

2- Case studies on endocrine functions.

3- Testing renal function. Calculating renal function parameters, significance and interpretation.

4- Adaptations of the digestive system. and case studies on reproductive physiology

## Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lectures	62	2.48	2, 4, 5, 7, 10, 8, 9, 12, 11, 14, 13, 15
Practical works	10.5	0.42	1, 5, 8, 12, 11, 13, 6, 16, 15
Seminars	8	0.32	1, 3, 5, 8, 12, 11, 14, 13, 6, 16, 15
Type: Autonomous			
Autonomous work on Case Reports/mentoring sessions	24	0.96	2, 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 12, 11, 14, 13, 6, 16, 15
Individual work and study	109.5	4.38	2, 4, 7, 10, 8, 9, 12, 11, 14, 13, 16, 15

The teaching methodology will involve classical face-to-face lectures.

Mandatory sessions of laboratory practice and microscopy are also scheduled. Mandatory workshops and seminars on cases, problem solving and data interpretation will be held in small groups in order provide the students a closer approach to real clinical situations, to enhance their analytical skills and to promote an integrative approach to practical applications and inference of physiological concepts. At the end of the seminars, students will be required to complete short evaluable activities. Classroom evaluation tests cannot be retaken.

- Students will be required to work on practical cases which will be discussed in mandatory mentoring sessions.

Students who wish to waive continuous assessment tests and prefer to take a single comprehensive exam of the

This single exam will combine questions from the entire syllabus and will be divided into 2 blocks (immunology a

Development and/or case resolution questions will be included in the exam to assess the various skills related to

of the development questions will be 20% of the grade for the physiology block.

Taking this choice does not obviate attendance to practical works and seminars

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

## Assessment

### Continous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
CLASSROOM EVALUATING ACTIVITITES ABOUT CONTENTS OF THE PHYSIOLOGY BLOCK	15%	5	0.2	1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, 11, 14, 13, 6, 16, 15
Test block immunology	25%	2	0.08	2, 4, 10, 9, 12, 14, 15
1st TEST BLOCK PHYSIOLOGY (Circulation Respiration & Endocrinology)	25%	2	0.08	7, 8, 9, 12, 11, 14, 13, 6, 16
2nd TEST BLOCK PHYSIOLOGY (Digestion, Renal Function and Reproduction. Integration))	35%	2	0.08	5, 7, 8, 9, 12, 11, 14, 13, 6, 16, 15

A multifactorial evaluation system has been proposed in order to:

- Guarantee the achievement of a good level of knowledge and skills.

- Assess the continuous work throughout the course through various tests and tasks
- Stimulate a continuous work on the subject (many tasks, each with a small contribution to the final score).
- Provide students with useful tools to integrate the knowledge and opportunity to be aware of how good is their progress in learning.
- Make it possible to test all the skills that must be evaluated.

The most relevant aspects of the evaluation system set for the 2024-25 course are listed below:

The weight of the Immunology block is 25% and that of the Physiology block is 75% of the final score. However, the blocks of Immunology and Physiology must be passed separately with a minimum mark of 5,00 / 10 in each one.

	WEIGHT OVER TOTAL	MINIMUM SCORES REQUIRED	TOTAL WEIGHT OF THE BLOCK	REMARKS
TEST IMMUNOLOGY BLOCK	25%	SCORE $\geq$ 5/10 AFTER ANSWERING A MINIMUM OF 70% OF THE QUESTIONS IN THE TEST	25%	-Attendance to practical Works is mandatory  -If the minimum score is not achieved in the first attempt, the student can retake the exam in late june-early july
CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT TESTS PHYSIOLOGY	15%		75%	-These tests cannot be retaken
1st TEST Block Physiology (Circ. Resp. Endocr.)	25%	SCORE $\geq$ 5/10 AFTER ANSWERING A MINIMUM OF 75% OF THE QUESTIONS IN THE TEST		-If the minimum score is not achieved in the first attempt, the student can retake the exam in late june-early july
2nd TEST Block Physiology (Digest. Renal, Reprod.)	35 %	SCORE $\geq$ 5/10 AFTER ANSWERING A MINIMUM OF 75% OF THE QUESTIONS IN THE TEST		-If the minimum score is not achieved in the first attempt, the student can retake the exam in late june-early july

EACH OF THE BLOCKS - IMMUNOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY - MUST BE PASSED SEPARATELY AND THE SCORES IN BOTH BLOCKS CAN ONLY BE AVERAGED IF THE MINIMUM SCORE REQUIRED IN EACH BLOCK IS EXCEEDED.

Those who fail the first attempt can take "second chance tests" scheduled by the end of june or early July. If due to personal or special circumstances a student cannot take the test(s) in the scheduled dates, oral exams would be the preferred alternative option.



Students who wish to waive continuous assessment tests and prefer to take a single comprehensive exam of the subject, shall declare their option in due time. This single exam will combine questions from the entire syllabus and will be divided into 2 blocks (immunology and physiology) each of which will have to be passed with a grade higher than 5/10. Development and/or case resolution questions will be included in the exam to assess the various skills related to discursive skills, the use of technical language, etc. In this exam, the relative weight of the development questions will be 20% of the grade for the physiology block. Taking this choice does not obviate attendance to practical works and seminars

## Bibliography

- Roitt's Essential Immunology, P.J. Delves, S.J. Martin, D. Burton, I. Roitt, Wiley-Blackwell Publ., 12th edition 2011
- Immunology, D. Male, J. Brostoff, I. Roitt, R. Mosby, 8th edition, 2018
- Cellular & Molecular Immunology, A.K. Abbas, A.H. Lichtman, S. Pillai, Saunders, 8th edition 2015
- Janeway's Immunobiology, K.M. Murphy, P. Travers, M. Walport. Garland Science, 8th edition 2012
- Kuby Immunology, J. Owen, J. Punt, S. Stranford, 7th edition 2012
- Fundamental Immunology, W.E. Paul, Lippincott, 7th edition 2013
- Introducción a la Inmunología humana, L. Fainboim, J. Gefner, Ed Médica 6ª edición. Editorial Medica Panamericana, 2011

## Software

no programari

## Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(PLAB) Practical laboratories	1	Catalan/Spanish	annual	morning-mixed
(PLAB) Practical laboratories	2	Catalan/Spanish	annual	morning-mixed
(PLAB) Practical laboratories	3	Catalan/Spanish	annual	morning-mixed
(PLAB) Practical laboratories	4	Catalan/Spanish	annual	morning-mixed
(PLAB) Practical laboratories	5	Catalan/Spanish	annual	morning-mixed
(PLAB) Practical laboratories	6	Catalan/Spanish	annual	morning-mixed
(SEM) Seminars	1	Catalan	annual	morning-mixed
(SEM) Seminars	2	Catalan	annual	morning-mixed
(SEM) Seminars	3	Catalan	annual	morning-mixed
(SEM) Seminars	4	Catalan	annual	morning-mixed

(SEM) Seminars	5	Catalan	annual	morning-mixed
(SEM) Seminars	6	Catalan	annual	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	1	Catalan/Spanish	annual	afternoon
(TE) Theory	2	Catalan/Spanish	annual	afternoon