

Degree programme	Type	Course
Biology	OP	4

Contact lecturer

Name : Carlos Tabernero Holgado

Email : carlos.tabernero@uab.cat

Prerequisites

None.

Group languages

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

Objectives

History of Biology is taken in the 4th year of the Degree of Biology and is part of the group of optional subjects.

The main objectives are:

Introduce the student to the consideration and experimentation of history as a vehicle for reflection and cultural construction, as an instrument of research, documentation and popularization, and as a pedagogical tool in the field of science. Within the specific scope of the history of biology, give the student the necessary tools to identify and critically analyze the main historiographical currents related to the natural sciences.

Introduce the student to the knowledge of the processes of generation, circulation, communication and management of scientific knowledge (particularly in the natural sciences), as well as his impact on socio-cultural transformations throughout history.

Introduce the student to the analysis of the role and the situation of the natural sciences and their social relations today and throughout history. Consider the social, cultural, strategic and economic importance of life sciences in society. And thus, give the student the necessary tools to synthesize, from the historical consideration of the natural sciences, a perspective of the current and future reach of these sciences.

Learning outcomes

1. Be able to analyse and synthesise.
2. Work in teams.
3. Be able to organise and plan.
4. Develop a sensibility towards environmental issues.
5. 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.

6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
9. Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
10. Analyse a situation and identify its points for improvement.
11. Propose new methods or well-founded alternative solutions.
12. Critically analyse the principles, values and procedures that govern the exercise of the profession.
13. Analyse the sex- or gender-based inequalities and the gender biases present in one's own area of knowledge.
14. Propose projects and actions that incorporate the gender perspective.
15. Propose viable projects and actions to boost social, economic and environmental benefits.
16. Identify and characterise the major phases in the history of biology.
17. Explain, from a social and historical standpoint, the different perspectives on the nature of biology.
18. Analyse and describe, in general terms, the role and position of biology and its presence in society, now and across history.
19. Identify and critically analyse the principal historiographic currents in biology.

Contents

Distributive blocks

1. Science, history, history of science
2. Ways of looking
3. East / West
4. Universe, printing, anatomy
5. Narratives about nature
6. The two cultures
7. Specialization and institutionalization
8. The historical vision of life
9. The death of nature
10. Individual, society, information

11. Chaos, order and dinosaurs

12. Conclusions and perspectives

Learning activities and methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Independent study, consultation of bibliography and realization of works	90	3.6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
Solving problems and tasks autonomously, participation in discussions	7.5	0.3	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
Theoretical classes / discussion sessions with ICT support	45	1.8	4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19

The subject is based on a theoretical-practical methodology through discussion sessions on primary sources and bibliographic and audio/visual materials that are provided during the semester.

Note: 15 minutes of a class will be reserved, within the timetable established by the centre/title, for the complementation by the students of the assessment surveys of the teaching staff's performance and the assessment of the subject.

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

Continuous assessment activities

Title	Weight	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Classroom portfolio	20%	2	0.08	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
Final essay	40%	3.5	0.14	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
Short essay	40%	2	0.08	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19

Assessment for this course is ongoing and based on:

- Active participation in class discussions, which will include:

- a) The creation of a portfolio to be compiled in class at the end of each theory block, which will be given sufficient advance notice (20% of the final grade).
 - b) The preparation of a short individual essay to be assigned during the semester, in which students must demonstrate their ability to place any topic related to the history of biology in its historical context and analyze it critically (40% of the final grade).
- The preparation of a final written essay in teams (40% of the final grade) on a specific topic within the course's content and competencies, in which students must demonstrate their ability to place any topic related to the history of biology in its historical context and analyze it critically.

The final grade will be the sum of the points obtained. For the assessment to be valid, students must pass each of the different assessments separately. Students who have not passed the course may take a resit exam. To be eligible for the resit exam, the student must have previously been evaluated on the thematic blocks whose combined weight is equivalent to at least two-thirds of the course's total grade. Additionally, to be eligible for the resit exam, students must have earned a grade of at least 3.5 on the course's overall grade.

Students who do not take the theoretical and practical exams will be considered "not evaluated" and will have exhausted their right to enroll in the course.

At the time each assessment activity is conducted, the professor will inform students (via Moodle) of the procedure and date for reviewing grades.

A student will receive a grade of "Not Evaluated" if they have not submitted more than 30% of the assessment activities.

Any irregularity committed during an assessment activity (academic misconduct, plagiarism, or improper use of AI, unless such use is expressly authorized in the course syllabus) that may lead to a significant alteration of the grade will result in that activity being graded as 0. If the course syllabus stipulates that obtaining a minimum mark in this assessment is an essential requirement to pass the course, or if multiple irregularities occur in the assessment activities of the same course, the final grade for the course will be 0. Furthermore, disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who incurs any of these irregularities.

In this subject, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies is permitted exclusively for support tasks, such as bibliographic or information searches. Students must clearly identify, where applicable, which parts were generated using this technology, specify the tools used, and include a critical reflection on how these tools influenced the process and the final outcome of the assignment. Failure to disclose the use of AI in the assignment will be considered a breach of academic integrity and may result in a partial or total penalization in the course grade, or more severe penalties in serious cases.

Single Assessment:

If necessary, a single assessment will be administered for students who, for justified reasons, are unable to complete the course's continuous assessment items. This exam will consist of the in-person completion, on a date, time, and in a classroom to be determined, of a brief final written essay (in this case, 100% of the grade)

on a specific topic within the course's content and competencies, in which the student must demonstrate their ability to place any issue related to the history of biology in its historical context and analyze it critically. The faculty will assist students who opt for the single assessment with a specific tutorial related to each of the main modules. The same resit system as for the continuous assessment will apply. Students who opt for the single assessment and do not take the indicated exam will be considered "Not Assessed," thereby exhausting their rights to enroll in the course.

Bibliography

Bibliographic sources of digital access will be provided during the semester. However, below are reference works that may also be used.

Basic initial bibliography

Alexander, Denis R.; Numbers, Ronald L. (eds.) *Biology and ideology from Descartes to Dawkins*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press; 2010.

Barona, Josep Lluís. *Història del pensament biològic*. València: Universitat de València; 2003.

Brunton, Deborah (eds). *Medicine transformed: health, disease and society in Europe, 1800-1930*. Manchester: Manchester University Press in association with the Open University; 2004.

Giordan, André (eds.) *Conceptos de Biología* (vols. 1&2). Madrid: Labor; 1988.

Jahn, Ilse, Löther, Rolf; Senglaub, Konrad. *Historia de la biología: teorías, métodos, instituciones y biografías breves*. Barcelona: Labor; 1990.

Jardine, N.; Secord, J.A.; Spary E.C. (eds). *Cultures of natural history*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 1996.

Additional bibliography will be offered throughout the semester. The initial bibliography may undergo some modifications depending on the restrictions on attendance imposed by the health authorities. In this case, we will use various platforms such as <https://mirades.uab.cat/ebs/>.

Software

In addition to web and Office tools, such as the campus online, email, Google docs, word, powerpoint and excel, tools such as wetransfer, dropbox or the VLC audiovisual file reader will be used.

Course groups and languages

The information provided is provisional until November 30. After this date, you will be able to consult the language of each group through this [link](#). To access the information, you will need to enter the course CODE

Type of teaching	Group	Language	Semester	Shift
(TE) Theory	14	Spanish	first semester	morning-mixed