UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Zoology

2021-1-E1301Q011

Aims

The main aim is to observe the organization, functioning and evolution of the animals. In particular: 1. Knowledge and understanding
The student will gain knowledge about the organization of animal bodies, how they works and the evolutionary origins.

2. Applying knowledge and understanding
The student will be able to isdentify the main animal groups and to know the basic of their functions.

3. Making judgements
The student will be able to process the acquired knowledge in the recognition and functioning of animals.

4. Communication skills
Use of an appropriate scientific vocabulary and show ability in oral reports.

5. Learning skills
Skills in reading and understanding the subsequent studies when the prerequisite is the knowledge of how the animal body works.

Contents

Zoology is the study of animals. There are many way to study zoology. The course of Zoology in our degree is not particularly focused on taxonomy, that is obviously present, but limited at the essential aspects. The focus of the course is instead the evolution of the body plans of animals. The course could be considered as a comparative zoology, in which each system will be observed during its evolution in the natural history of living beings.

Detailed program

Introduction. What is zoology?
Evolution of living beings. Homology and analogy.
Evolution of multicellularity.
Animal bauplan. Models of body evolution in Metazoa. Symmetry. Body cavities. Metamery. Cephalization.
Animal diversity: "protozoans"; poriferans; appearance and evolution of multicellularity; cnidarians; ctenophores; flat worms; pseudocoelomate (nematodes and rotifers); mollusks; annelids; panarthropods; lophophorates; echinoderms; origin and evolution of chordates; evolution of vertebrates.
Comparative zoology. Evolution and differentiation of systems.

Prerequisites

Basic knowledges in biology, cytology and histology.

Teaching form

Frontal lessons and obligatory practical laboratories. Tutoring available.

During the Covid-19 emergency, the frontal lessons will be given to relatively small and separate groups of students. These groups will be hosted for a whole week and the groups will be flipped among the weeks. All the lessons will be recorded and made available.

In addition, students will be supported with recorded materials by the teacher. These further lessons will be made available through the e-learning platform.

Experiences in laboratory during the emergency will be reduced in numbers and substituted with remote activities.

Textbook and teaching resource

Text book: Casiraghi et al. “Zoologia” – UTET - De Agostini.
Diapositives and videos shown at lessons available on the e-learning platform.
For a better study it is better to observe many animal and structure photographs. It is easy to get those images using the image search in all the browsers and YouTube.
To study the Italian biodiversity: http://www.faunaitalia.it/
Many infos about evolution are available here: http://pikaia.eu/

Semester

First semester

Assessment method

During Covid-19 emergency there will be oral examination through web resources only.

In Moodle e-learning will be published the open link to assist to the session (without interactions). Exam attendee will have a dedicated access.

Normal examination:

Written exams (the score is not used in the final result) and an oral test. Aim of the written part is to evaluate the abity to recognize animals and their parts. Aim of the oral part is to show the knowledge of appropriate technical language and abity to elaborate a discussion. The two parts are directly consequential: generally the written part is in the morning, while the oral examination in the late morning/afternoon. The written exam consists in 40-50 little questions as informatics test. The first 20 questions are relative to basic and introductory zoological knowledges. The following 10 questions are relative to structure and physiology of animal functions. The last 10-20 questions are relative to taxonomy. The oral exam starts from 2 photos of animals (generally a protostome and a deuterostome). The student has to establish to which group the animal belong and to define the general characteristics of that. There are then 2 further questions on general aspects of the program relative to the physiology and evolution of living beings.

Office hours

On appointment; mail to: maurizio.casiraghi@unimib.it