



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Zoology

2122-1-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 work and the evolutionary origins.

2. Applying knowledge and understanding

The student will be able to identify 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 ways 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 practical laboratories (mandatory).

Tutoring available.

There is the possibility to video record the lessons.

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

Textbook and teaching resource

Text book: Casiraghi et al. "Zoologia" – UTET - De Agostini.

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

Office hours

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