

COURSE SYLLABUS

Biochemistry

2526-2-E0201Q049

Aims

This course aims to provide students with a comprehensive view on the mechanisms of action of biological molecules and on metabolic pathways. Knowledge acquired in previous courses will be applied in a quantitative way to biological processes.

Knowledge and understanding. Understanding and interpreting biochemical processes through the principles of chemistry and physics

Applying knowledge and understanding. Students will learn how to apply knowledge to solve problems and to plan experiments in the field.

Making judgements. Students will learn to evaluate information provided and to bring it in relation with other scientific issues

Communication skills. Students will learn to correctly discuss and present biochemical topics issues

Learning skills. Students will become able to analyze scientific literature and to apply and integrate knowledge and information

Critical and judgment skills will be implemented in particular during the lessons and exercises dedicated to problem solving.

Contents

This course deals with the biochemical bases of cell function. Major topics are structure/function relationships in proteins and enzymes, principles of bioenergetics, general aspects of catabolism and anabolism. Metabolic pathways are described at different level of detail and regulation thereof are analyzed.

Detailed program

Introduction: principles and rules of biological chemistry

a) Proteins

Amino acids, peptide bond, primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary structure. Principles of protein folding and the role of chaperones. Techniques of protein purification and analysis

Transport of oxygen: myoglobin and hemoglobin

Enzymes

Mechanisms of catalysis. Examples of enzymes: serine protease, lysozyme, enolase

Enzyme kinetics and regulation (activation, inhibition, allosteric)

b) Metabolism

Bioenergetics, high-energy compounds, coupled reactions, biological oxidation and reduction reactions

Glycolysis, gluconeogenesis and glycogen metabolism

Citric acid cycle

Catabolism and synthesis of lipids

Amino acids metabolism, the urea cycle

Electron transport and oxidative phosphorylation

c) Metabolism integration and regulation

Fundamentals of metabolic regulation

Prerequisites

Background: General and Organic chemistry; Introductory Biology

Specific prerequisites: Organic chemistry

General prerequisites: Students can take the exams of the second year after passing the examinations of Introductory Biology, General and Inorganic Chemistry, Mathematics, and Foreign Language.

Teaching form

28 lessons (2 hours each) of delivered didactics (DE)

and 10 hours of exercises in the form of interactive teaching (DI)

Tutorials (16 hours): classroom supplementary activities through exercises on selected course topics.

Teaching language: Italian.

Teaching activities are carried out in presence. However, if requested by students, recordings of lessons from previous years will be provided.

Textbook and teaching resource

Learning material is available at the e-learning platform of the course.

Recommended textbooks:

- D.L. Nelson, M.M. Cox: I principi di Biochimica di Lehninger, Zanichelli; C.K. Mathews, K.E. van Holde et al: Biochimica,
- Piccin; D. Voet, J.G. Voet, Pratt: Fondamenti di Biochimica, Zanichelli; Nelson e Cox: Introduzione alla Biochimica di Lehninger Zanichelli

Semester

First semester

Assessment method

Written+oral examination. Written parts contain problems and questions covering the whole program. The oral examination is on the whole course content.

Students attending the course might replace the written examination with two midterm written exams. Students with sufficient marks in both of them can directly take the oral examination by April of the same academic year. Midterm marks, along with the evaluation of oral examination, concur to the final grade.

Office hours

Contact: on demand, upon request by mail to lecturer

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION
