



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Chimica Bioinorganica

2627-1-F5402Q007

Aims

The aim of the course is to illustrate properties, structures, reactivity, biological functions and methods of characterization of compounds of bioinorganic relevance.

Contents

Introduction to bioinorganic chemistry

Physical and spectroscopic methods for the characterization and study of bioinorganic systems

Fundamentals of electron transfer theory (Marcus theory and quantum tunneling);

Structure and function of metal proteins for electron transfer

Electron transport: the case of cytochrome c oxidase

Photosynthesis and PSII

Detoxification and activation of O₂

Role of metals in diseases: the case of copper in neurodegenerative diseases

Activation and catalysis of small molecules (CO₂, CH₄, CO, H₂)

Heme and non-heme metallo proteins for the activation of recalcitrant substrates

Detailed program

Sure, here is the translation:

Introduction

1. Chemical elements of the periodic table in living systems
2. Concept of essential elements
3. Metalloenzymes, metallomics, metal homeostasis/dyshomeostasis
4. Biogeochemical cycles of major elements involved in the chemistry of living organisms, role of metalloproteins in cellular processes, modulation of thermodynamic and kinetic properties of metals by proteins.

Properties of biologically relevant inorganic compounds (cofactors, metalloproteins, metal-nucleic acid complexes).

Structural and catalytic roles of metal ions in living systems

1. Biochemistry review: structure of proteins, membranes, and major cofactors
2. Membrane proteins and their structure
3. Stereoelectronic properties of metal cofactors
4. Biomimetic compounds

Techniques for studying bioinorganic chemistry: XRD crystallography and cryoEM, spectroscopies, cyclic voltammetry, and quantum and computational chemistry approaches

Electron transfer in metalloproteins

1. Marcus theory and quantum tunneling
2. Electron transfer proteins and characterization of cofactors (Fe-S clusters, heme groups, and Cu centers)
3. Trends in ET rate constants with varying distances between redox centers

Electron transport: the case of cytochrome-c oxidase (cco, complex IV)

1. Cellular metabolism review: major pathways in eukaryotic organisms, cellular respiration, and electron transport chain
2. Structure of the cco protein complex and structure of metal cofactors
3. Mechanism of oxygen reduction and proton translocation

Activation of molecular oxygen and ROS detoxification

1. Introduction to the biogeochemical cycle of oxygen and the Great Oxidation Event
2. ROS in living systems
3. Metalloenzymes involved in ROS detoxification processes (SOD, SOR, and catalase and their mechanisms of action)

Transition metal dyshomeostasis: the case of copper in Alzheimer's disease

1. Introduction to Alzheimer's disease (AD)
2. Etiological hypotheses in AD (amyloid cascade, oxidative stress, metal dyshomeostasis)
3. Copper-amyloid peptide interaction and catalysis of oxygen reduction to hydroxyl radicals
4. Propagation of OH radicals and oxidative stress

Activation of small molecules (1) – protons and H₂

1. Hydrogenases and their classification (FeFe, NiFe, and Fe-only H₂ase)
2. FeFe and NiFe hydrogenases: function, structure, and catalytic mechanism

Activation of small molecules (2) – CO

1. Chemical and biological activation of CO
2. Acetogenic organisms and the Wood-Ljungdahl pathway

3. Metalloenzymes involved in CO₂ activation in acetogens: CODH, CODH-ACS complex, and FDH

Activation of small molecules (3) – CH₄

1. Introduction to archaeobacteria - methanogenic and methanotrophic microorganisms
2. Metabolic pathway of CO₂ reduction to CH₄ in methanogens
3. Structure and mechanism of Methyl Coenzyme M reductase (MCR)
4. Metabolic pathway of CH₄ oxidation in methanotrophs
5. Structure and mechanism of methane monooxygenase (MMO)

Heme and non-heme metalloproteins for the activation of recalcitrant substrates

1. Laccase
2. Lignin peroxidase

Prerequisites

Basic knowledge of biochemistry (proteins, DNA and RNA, metabolic pathways, etc.) and of the chemical-physical properties of metal ions and coordination compounds

Teaching form

24 two-hour lectures, in person, Delivered Didactics

Textbook and teaching resource

I. Bertini, H.B. Gray, E.I. Stiefel, E.S. valentine "Biological Inorganic Chemistry: Structure and Reactivity" University Science Books, Sausalito, California

Course slides and scientific papers

Semester

First year LM - Second Semester

Assessment method

The final examination consists of a single oral exam, graded on a scale of 18–30/30.

18–24 (Satisfactory–Fair)

Basic knowledge of the topics, with partial understanding and limited ability to critically re-elaborate the content. Language is generally correct, but with some inaccuracies.

25–27 (Good)

Good knowledge of the topics and solid understanding of the fundamental concepts. Adequate autonomy in re-elaboration and ability to make connections. Appropriate use of discipline-specific terminology.

28–30 (Excellent–Outstanding)

Excellent knowledge of the topics and full understanding of the concepts. Strong ability to critically re-elaborate the content and work independently. Clear and accurate language, with full command of the relevant terminology.

Office hours

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Sustainable Development Goals

LIFE ON LAND
