

SEMESTER-I

COURSE 2: INTRODUCTION TO APPLIED BIOLOGY

Theory

Credits: 4

5 hrs/week

Learning objectives

The student will be able to learn the foundations and principles of microbiology, immunology, biochemistry, biotechnology, analytical tools, quantitative methods, and bioinformatics.

Learning Outcomes

1. Learn the history, ultrastructure, diversity and importance of microorganisms.
2. Understand the structure and functions of macromolecules.
3. Knowledge on biotechnology principles and its applications in food and medicine.
4. Outline the techniques, tools and their uses in diagnosis and therapy.
5. Demonstrate the bioinformatics and statistical tools in comprehending the complex biological data.

Unit 1: Essentials of Microbiology and Immunology

- 1.1. History and Major Milestones of Microbiology; Contributions of Edward Jenner, Louis Pasteur, Robert Koch and Joseph Lister.
- 1.2. Groups of Microorganisms – Structure and characteristics of Bacteria, Fungi, Archaea and Virus.
- 1.3. Applications of microorganisms in – Food, Agriculture, Environment, and Industry.
- 1.4. Immune system – Immunity, types of immunity, cells and organs of immune system.

Unit 2: Essentials of Biochemistry

- 2.1. Biomolecules I – Carbohydrates, Lipids.
- 2.2. Biomolecules II – Amino acids & Proteins.
- 2.3. Biomolecules III – Nucleic acids -DNA and RNA.
- 2.4. Basics of Metabolism – Anabolism and catabolism.

Unit 3: Essentials of Biotechnology

- 3.1. History, scope, and significance of biotechnology. Applications of biotechnology in Plant, Animal, Industrial and Pharmaceutical sciences.
- 3.2. Environmental Biotechnology – Bioremediation and Biofuels, Biofertilizers and Biopesticides.
- 3.3. Genetic engineering – Gene manipulation using restriction enzymes and cloning vectors; Physical, chemical, and biological methods of gene transfer.
- 3.4. Transgenic plants – Stress tolerant plants (biotic stress – BT cotton, abiotic stress – salt tolerance). Transgenic animals – Animal and disease models.

Unit 4: Analytical Tools and techniques in biology – Applications

- 4.1. Applications in forensics – PCR and DNA fingerprinting
- 4.2. Immunological techniques – Immunoblotting and ELISA.
- 4.3. Monoclonal antibodies – Applications in diagnosis and therapy.
- 4.4. Eugenics and Gene therapy

Unit 5: Biostatistics and Bioinformatics

- 5.1. Data collection and sampling. Measures of central tendency – Mean, Median, Mode.
- 5.2. Measures of dispersion – range, standard deviation and variance. Probability and tests of significance.
- 5.3. Introduction, Genomics, Proteomics, types of Biological data, biological databases- NCBI, EBI, Gen Bank; Protein 3D structures, Sequence alignment
- 5.4. Accessing Nucleic Acid and Protein databases, NCBI Genome Workbench

REFERENCES

1. Gerard J., Tortora, Berdell R. Funke, Christine L. Case., 2016. Microbiology: An Introduction. 11th Edition. Pearson publications, London, England.
2. Micale, J. Pelczar Jr., E.C.S. Chan., Noel R. Kraig., 2002. Pelczar Microbiology. 5th Edition. McGraw Education, New York, USA.
3. Sathyanarayana U., Chakrapani, U., 2013. Biochemistry. 4th Edition. Elsevier publishers.
4. Jain J.L., Sunjay Jain, Nitin Jain, 2000. Fundamentals of Biochemistry. S. Chand publishers, New Delhi, India.
5. R.C. Dubey, 2014. Advanced Biotechnology. S. Chand Publishers, New Delhi, India.
6. Colin Ratledge, Bjorn, Kristiansen, 2008. Basic Biotechnology. 3rd Edition. Cambridge Publishers.
7. U. Sathyanarayana, 2005. Biotechnology. 1st Edition. Books and Allied Publishers pvt. ltd., Kolkata.
8. Upadhyay, Upadhyay and Nath. 2016. Biophysical Chemistry, Principles and Techniques. Himalaya Publishing House.
9. Arthur M. Lesk. Introduction to Bioinformatics. 5th Edition. Oxford publishers.
10. AP Kulkarni, 2020. Basics of Biostatistics. 2nd Edition. CBS publishers.

ACTIVITIES

1. Identification of given organism as harmful or beneficial.
2. Observation of microorganisms from house dust under microscope.
3. Finding microorganism from pond water.

4. Visit to a microbiology industry or biotech company.
5. Visit to a waste water treatment plant.
6. Retrieving a DNA or protein sequence of a gene'
7. Performing a BLAST analysis for DNA and protein.
8. Problems on biostatistics.
9. Field trip and awareness programs on environmental pollution by different types of wastes and hazardous materials.
10. Demonstration on basic biotechnology lab equipment.
11. Preparation of 3D models of genetic engineering techniques.
12. Preparation of 3D models of transgenic plants and animals.

[**NOTE:** In the colleges where there is availability of faculty for microbiology and biotechnology, those chapters need to be handled by microbiology and biotechnology faculty. In other colleges, the above topics shall be dealt by Botany and Zoology faculty]