



Biology

Foundation Studies Program

Aims

Biology aims to provide students with an appreciation for the phenomenon of life at levels ranging from the interactions of molecules to the interactions of organisms within the biosphere. The subject provides students with an opportunity to develop an understanding of basic biological concepts: the structure and function of living things, their interdependence, and their place in the environment. The subject provides the student with a broad introduction to biological terminology and concepts. Biology also aims to provide the student with practical skills, especially microscopy, suitable for the study of living organisms and includes basic skills in understanding scientific communication and methodology.

Learning outcomes

After successfully completing this subject students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of some of the key ideas of biology.
- Appreciate the role of the scientific method in the accumulation of knowledge about biology.
- Communicate information and ideas, using the language of biology.
- Demonstrate practical and observational skills of biological systems.
- Solve problems, using the knowledge and ideas of biology.
- Obtain information about biology, using a variety of sources.
- Gain awareness of the social implications of biological knowledge and technological advances in biology.

Subject content

WEEK	TOPIC AND ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE
1	Orientation week
2 - 6	Cell biology
7 - 11	Biochemistry
12 - 17	Physiology
18	Revision/Exams
19	Exams
20	Exam review
21 - 24	Cell division
25 - 29	Genetics
30 - 37	Ecology & evolution
38	SWOTVAC/revision
39	Exams
40	Graduation

Assessment

General weightings for each assessment item are outlined below.

ASSESSMENT ITEM	WEIGHTING
Participation	5%
Assignments (including practical reports & presentations)	25%
Tests	25%
Mid-year theory exam	15%
Final theory exam	30%

Prerequisites and assumed knowledge

There are no prerequisites or assumed knowledge for this subject.

Further enquiries

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