

Biology (BL) modules

BL1101 Biology 1			
SCOTCAT Credits:	20	SCQF Level 7	Semester 1
Academic year:	2018/9		
Planned timetable:	10.00 am; Practical classes one per week 2.00 - 5.00 pm Mon, Tue, or Wed		
This module is an introduction to molecular and cellular biology. It covers cell diversity and the origins of life, cellular structures and fundamental processes. The central dogma of molecular biology is investigated through the examination of the structure and function of DNA, RNA and proteins, and how this knowledge led to modern developments in biotechnology. The final section of the module gives an introduction into molecular and population genetics with an emphasis on the process of evolution. Throughout the module the lecture material is complemented by extensive practical classes where biological laboratory techniques are taught and practiced through, for example, microscopy, DNA isolation, dissection and thin layer chromatography.			
Learning and teaching methods of delivery:	Weekly contact: 5 x 1-hour lectures and 1 x 3-hour practical (x 11 weeks).		
	Scheduled learning: 88 hours	Guided independent Study: 112 hours	
Assessment pattern:	As defined by QAA: Written Examinations = 65%, Practical Examinations = 0%, Coursework = 35%		
	As used by St Andrews: 2-hour Written Examination = 50%, Coursework = 50%		
Re-assessment pattern:	2-hour Written Examination = 50%, Existing Coursework = 50%		
Module coordinator:	Dr P J Coote		
Module teaching staff:	Team taught		

BL1102 Biology 2			
SCOTCAT Credits:	20	SCQF Level 7	Semester 2
Academic year:	2018/9		
Planned timetable:	10.00 am, Practical classes one per week 2.00 - 5.00 pm Mon, Tue, or Wed		
This module provides an introduction to the diversity of life on Earth and will address key elements of organismal and ecological aspects of life. The module is divided into several sections beginning with the classification of life and an introduction to the kingdoms Monera, Fungi and Protista. Photosynthesis, respiration and the evolution and diversity of plants will be studied. Students will then look at the diversity of animals in the sea and the movement of some groups onto land. The module will also provide an introduction to animal behaviour and developmental biology, before finishing off by introducing ecology and the various factors promoting and threatening biodiversity. Throughout the module the lecture material is complemented by extensive practical classes introducing a variety of fieldwork and laboratory techniques.			
Learning and teaching methods of delivery:	Weekly contact: 5 x 1-hour lectures (x 11 weeks) and 1 x 3-hour practical (x 9 weeks)		
	Scheduled learning: 82 hours	Guided independent Study: 119 hours	
Assessment pattern:	As defined by QAA: Written Examinations = 50%, Practical Examinations = 7%, Coursework = 43%		
	As used by St Andrews: 2-hour Written Examination = 50%, Coursework = 50%		
Re-assessment pattern:	2-hour Written Examination = 50%, Existing Coursework = 50%		
Module coordinator:	Dr M M Webster		
Module teaching staff:	Team taught		

Biology - 1000 & 2000 Level - 2018/9 - June - 2018

BL2300 Research Methods in Biology				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 8	Semester	1
Academic year:	2018/9			
Planned timetable:	Lectures: 12.00 noon Tue, Thu (odd weeks) 12.00 noon Wed, Fri (even weeks) Practical classes: 2.00 - 5.00 pm Wed, Thu or Fri (weeks 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10)			
This module will help students develop essential academic and transferable skills, with major emphasis on problem solving. This will be achieved through a combination of interactive lectures, independent data-handling workshops and group work on a mini research project. The module will start with an introduction to the scientific method, experimental design, understanding and presenting data. Students will then learn various statistical tests using a code-based statistical software and build their confidence in independent data-handling workshops. Regular mathematics for biologists classes will allow students to practise manipulating equations, performing laboratory calculations etc. A mini project on which the students work in small groups will help them apply the principles learned. The module will also cover scientific essay writing, record keeping and good laboratory practice.				
Pre-requisite(s):	Before taking this module you must pass BL1101 and pass BL1102			
Learning and teaching methods of delivery:	Weekly contact: 2 x 1-hour lecture (x 10 weeks), 1 x 3-hour practical (x 6 weeks)			
	Scheduled learning: 38 hours		Guided independent Study: 112 hours	
Assessment pattern:	As defined by QAA: Written Examinations = 0%, Practical Examinations = 0%, Coursework = 100%			
	As used by St Andrews: Coursework = 100%			
Re-assessment pattern:	Alternative assessment to the same weighting as the failed item of assessment			
Module coordinator:	Dr V C J Dietrich-Bischoff			
Module teaching staff:	Team taught			

BL2301 Cell Biology				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 8	Semester	1
Academic year:	2018/9			
Planned timetable:	Lectures: 9.00 am Mon, Tue, Wed (odd weeks) 9.00 am Mon, Tue (even weeks) Practicals: 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm Mon or Tue (weeks 1, 3, 5, 8 & 10)			
The module will introduce the concept of 'a cell', moving on to discuss different types of prokaryotic and eukaryotic cell. The structure and function of a variety of sub-cellular compartments will be examined. The diversity of different cell types within multicellular organisms will be highlighted, together with an overview of how this diversity is achieved.				
Pre-requisite(s):	Before taking this module you must pass BL1101 and pass BL1102			
Anti-requisite(s)	You cannot take this module if you take BL2101			
Learning and teaching methods of delivery:	Weekly contact: 2 x 1-hour lecture (even weeks) 3 x 1-hour lecture (odd weeks), 3-hour practical classes (x 5 weeks)			
	Scheduled learning: 39 hours		Guided independent Study: 111 hours	
Assessment pattern:	As defined by QAA: Written Examinations = 50%, Practical Examinations = 0%, Coursework = 50%			
	As used by St Andrews: 2-hour Written Examination = 50%, Coursework = 50%			
Re-assessment pattern:	2-Hour Written Examination = 50%, Existing Coursework = 50% (if Exam failed) Existing Examination = 50%, New Coursework = 50% (if Coursework failed) 2-hour Written Examination = 100% (if coursework and exam failed) 2-hour Written Examination = 100% (for Qualified Honours Entry)			
Module coordinator:	Dr J E Sleeman			
Module teaching staff:	Team taught			

BL2302 Molecular Biology

SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 8	Semester	1
Academic year:	2018/9			
Planned timetable:	Lectures: 9.00 am Thu, Fri (odd weeks) 9.00 am Wed, Thu, Fri (even weeks) Practicals: 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm Mon or Tue (weeks 2, 4, 7, 9 & 11)			
Molecular biology is an essential tool within modern biology, widely used in biochemistry, cell biology and ecology. This module will provide an introduction to modern molecular biology. Lectures will cover fundamental biological processes such as transcription, translation, DNA replication and repair - as well as touch on the genomics revolution and how this has influenced the field. These concepts will be reinforced through laboratory practical classes where students will develop their practical skills and be exposed to the use of basic bioinformatics resources to analyse and interpret data.				
Pre-requisite(s):	Before taking this module you must pass BL1101 and pass BL1102			
Anti-requisite(s)	You cannot take this module if you take BL2104			
Learning and teaching methods of delivery:	Weekly contact: 3 x 1-hour in even weeks and 2 x 1-hour in odd weeks, 3-hour practical (x 5 weeks)			
	Scheduled learning: 39 hours		Guided independent Study: 111 hours	
Assessment pattern:	As defined by QAA: Written Examinations = 70%, Practical Examinations = 0%, Coursework = 30%			
	As used by St Andrews: 2-hour Written Examination = 50%, Coursework = 50%			
Re-assessment pattern:	2-Hour Written Examination = 50%, Existing Coursework = 50% (if Exam failed) Existing Examination = 50%, New Coursework = 50% (if Coursework failed) 2-hour Written Examination = 100% (if coursework and exam failed) 2-hour Written Examination = 100% (for Qualified Honours Entry)			
Module coordinator:	Dr H C Ferreira			
Module teaching staff:	Team taught			

BL2303 Evolutionary Biology

SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 8	Semester	1
Academic year:	2018/9			
Planned timetable:	Lectures: 11.00 am Thu, Fri (odd weeks) 11.00 am Wed, Thu, Fri (even weeks) Practicals: 2.00 - 5.00 pm Thu or Fri (weeks 1, 3, 5, 8 & 10)			
Evolution is a fundamentally important component of our understanding of all biological phenomena, from molecular to ecosystem scales. This module will give an overview of the history and major principles of modern evolutionary biology, aimed at contemporary biologists of all backgrounds.				
Pre-requisite(s):	Before taking this module you must pass BL1101 and pass BL1102			
Anti-requisite(s)	You cannot take this module if you take BL2105			
Learning and teaching methods of delivery:	Weekly contact: 3 x 1-hour in even weeks and 2 x 1-hour in odd weeks, 3-hour practical (x 5 weeks)			
	Scheduled learning: 39 hours		Guided independent Study: 111 hours	
Assessment pattern:	As defined by QAA: Written Examinations = 50%, Practical Examinations = 0%, Coursework = 50%			
	As used by St Andrews: 2-hour Written Examination = 50%, Coursework = 50%			
Re-assessment pattern:	2-Hour Written Examination = 50%, Existing Coursework = 50% (if Exam failed) Existing Examination = 50%, New Coursework = 50% (if Coursework failed) 2-hour Written Examination = 100% (if coursework and exam failed) 2-hour Written Examination = 100% (for Qualified Honours Entry)			
Module coordinator:	Prof M G Ritchie			
Module teaching staff:	Team taught			

Biology - 1000 & 2000 Level - 2018/9 - June - 2018

BL2304 Invertebrate Zoology			
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 8	Semester 1
Academic year:	2018/9		
Planned timetable:	Lectures: 11.00 am Mon, Tue, Wed (odd weeks) 11.00 am Mon, Tue (even weeks) Practicals: 2.00 - 5.00 pm Thu or Fri (weeks 2, 4, 7, 9 & 11)		
<p>The vast majority of animals are invertebrates - they do not have backbones. This module surveys the major invertebrate groups, emphasizing the diversity of body plans while demonstrating how the common functional requirements such as feeding, reproduction, respiration and excretion are achieved. The module starts with the simplest animals such as sponges and jellyfish, and considers how these primitive animals may have arisen from non-animal ancestors. It continues with a description of the several groups of worms, and the molluscs and arthropods. The last major group discussed are the echinoderms, which are close invertebrate relatives to vertebrate animals such as ourselves. The economic, social, and scientific impact that invertebrates have on human society is identified. The evolutionary relations between the various groups is the common thread that binds this diversity into a coherent story. A series of practical exercises reinforces and complements the lecture component of this module.</p>			
Pre-requisite(s):	Before taking this module you must pass BL1101 and pass BL1102		
Anti-requisite(s)	You cannot take this module if you take BL2102		
Learning and teaching methods of delivery:	Weekly contact: 2 x 1-hour in even weeks and 3 x 1-hour in odd weeks, 3-hour practical (x 5 weeks) 2 hours of seminars in total.		
	Scheduled learning: 39 hours	Guided independent Study: 111 hours	
Assessment pattern:	As defined by QAA: Written Examinations = 50%, Practical Examinations = 0%, Coursework = 50%		
	As used by St Andrews: 2-hour Written Examination = 50%, Coursework = 50%		
Re-assessment pattern:	2-Hour Written Examination = 50%, Existing Coursework = 50% (if Exam failed) Existing Examination = 50%, New Coursework = 50% (if Coursework failed) 2-hour Written Examination = 100% (if coursework and exam failed) 2-hour Written Examination = 100% (for Qualified Honours Entry)		
Module coordinator:	Dr W J Heitler		
Module teaching staff:	Team taught		

BL2305 Cell Systems				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 8	Semester	2
Academic year:	2018/9			
Planned timetable:	Lectures: 9.00 am Mon, Tue, Wed (odd weeks) 9.00 am Mon, Tue (even weeks) Practicals: 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm Mon or Tue (weeks 2, 4, 6, 8 & 10)			
Cells are often considered to be the fundamental unit of life. This module will discuss how cells interact with one another to form complex tissues and organisms. You will consider, the structure-function relationship of a variety of cell types, including those involved in forming muscles, neuronal networks, blood and immunity and infectious diseases. The mechanisms by which cells communicate in order to mediate the complex physiology of an organism will be discussed and you will consider how disruption of these cell systems can lead to disease states.				
Pre-requisite(s):	Before taking this module you must pass BL1101 and pass BL1102			
Anti-requisite(s)	You cannot take this module if you take BL2101			
Learning and teaching methods of delivery:	Weekly contact: 2 x 1-hour in even weeks and 3 x 1-hour in odd weeks, 3-hour practical (x 5 weeks)			
	Scheduled learning: 39 hours		Guided independent Study: 111 hours	
Assessment pattern:	As defined by QAA: Written Examinations = 50%, Practical Examinations = 0%, Coursework = 50%			
	As used by St Andrews: 2-hour Written Examination = 50%, Coursework = 50%			
Re-assessment pattern:	2-Hour Written Examination = 50%, Existing Coursework = 50% (if Exam failed) Existing Examination = 50%, New Coursework = 50% (if Coursework failed) 2-hour Written Examination = 100% (if coursework and exam failed) 2-hour Written Examination = 100% (for Qualified Honours Entry)			
Module coordinator:	Dr G R Prescott			
Module teaching staff:	Team taught			

BL2306 Biochemistry				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 8	Semester	2
Academic year:	2018/9			
Planned timetable:	Lectures: 9.00 am Thu, Fri (odd weeks), 9.00 am Wed, Thu, Fri (even weeks) Practicals: 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm Mon or Tue (weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 & 11)			
Due to recent technological developments, metabolism and its regulation has re-emerged as an important area of Biology. This module will examine major biological macromolecules, the common motifs which occur in metabolic reactions, explore the properties of enzymes catalysing these reactions and consider the approaches to characterise the small molecule complement (metabolites) of biological systems. A number of central metabolic pathways and their control will be studied in detail, alongside examples of their importance in disease and recent metabolomic studies.				
Pre-requisite(s):	Before taking this module you must pass BL1101 and pass BL1102			
Anti-requisite(s)	You cannot take this module if you take BL2104			
Learning and teaching methods of delivery:	Weekly contact: 3 x 1-hour in even weeks and 2 x 1-hour in odd weeks, 3-hour practical (x 6 weeks)			
	Scheduled learning: 42 hours		Guided independent Study: 108 hours	
Assessment pattern:	As defined by QAA: Written Examinations = 50%, Practical Examinations = 0%, Coursework = 50%			
	As used by St Andrews: 2-hour Written Examination = 50%, Coursework = 50%			
Re-assessment pattern:	2-Hour Written Examination = 50%, Existing Coursework = 50% (if Exam failed) Existing Examination = 50%, New Coursework = 50% (if Coursework failed) 2-hour Written Examination = 100% (if coursework and exam failed) 2-hour Written Examination = 100% (for Qualified Honours Entry)			
Module coordinator:	Dr J Nairn			
Module teaching staff:	Team taught			

Biology - 1000 & 2000 Level - 2018/9 - June - 2018

BL2307 Ecology			
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 8	Semester
Academic year:	2018/9		
Planned timetable:	Lectures: 11.00 am Thu, Fri (odd weeks) 11.00 am Wed, Thu, Fri (even weeks) Practicals: 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm Thu or Fri (weeks 2, 4, 6, 8 & 10)		
This module introduces basic concepts in population and community ecology and how they relate to biodiversity. It provides an understanding of fundamental ecological concepts including population regulation, intra- and inter-specific competition, species niche as well as taxonomic and functional diversity. This module is suitable for all Biologists and environmental scientists. Although it is an introductory module, it will cover the latest developments in the field of ecology.			
Pre-requisite(s):	Before taking this module you must pass BL1101 and pass BL1102		
Anti-requisite(s)	You cannot take this module if you take BL2105		
Learning and teaching methods of delivery:	Weekly contact: 3 x 1-hour in even weeks and 2 x 1-hour in odd weeks, 3-hour practical (x 5 weeks)		
	Scheduled learning: 39 hours	Guided independent Study: 111 hours	
Assessment pattern:	As defined by QAA: Written Examinations = 50%, Practical Examinations = 0%, Coursework = 50%		
	As used by St Andrews: 2-hour Written Examination = 50%, Coursework = 50%		
Re-assessment pattern:	2-Hour Written Examination = 50%, Existing Coursework = 50% (if Exam failed) Existing Examination = 50%, New Coursework = 50% (if Coursework failed) 2-hour Written Examination = 100% (if coursework and exam failed) 2-hour Written Examination = 100% (for Qualified Honours Entry)		
Module coordinator:	Prof O E Gaggiotti		
Module teaching staff:	Team taught		

BL2308 Vertebrate Zoology			
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 8	Semester 2
Academic year:	2018/9		
Planned timetable:	Lectures: 11.00 am Mon, Tue, Wed (odd weeks) 11.00 am Mon, Tue (even weeks) Practicals: 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm Thu or Fri (weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 & 11)		
This module will explore the diversity of vertebrate animals, beginning with the closest relatives of vertebrates and the evolutionary origins of the group. A detailed look at the defining characteristics of the body plans and lifestyles of the key vertebrate groups will illustrate how they carry out basic animal functions in similar or different ways. This will be put in an evolutionary context to reveal the patterns and trends in the vertebrates as a whole, while also highlighting current phylogenetic controversies. The module will then explore some common themes across the key groups, starting with the developmental biology of some vertebrate model systems and the lessons we can learn from these. We will also see how the highly developed brains of vertebrates have allowed the evolution of astonishing sensory capacities and of complex behaviours, and how these are different (or not) from invertebrates.			
Pre-requisite(s):	Before taking this module you must pass BL1101 and pass BL1102		
Anti-requisite(s)	You cannot take this module if you take BL2102		
Learning and teaching methods of delivery:	Weekly contact: 3 x 1-hour in even weeks and 2 x 1-hour in odd weeks, 3-hour practical (x 6 weeks)		
	Scheduled learning: 42 hours	Guided independent Study: 108 hours	
Assessment pattern:	As defined by QAA: Written Examinations = 50%, Practical Examinations = 0%, Coursework = 50%		
	As used by St Andrews: 2-hour Written Examination = 50%, Coursework = 50%		
Re-assessment pattern:	2-Hour Written Examination = 50%, Existing Coursework = 50% (if Exam failed) Existing Examination = 50%, New Coursework = 50% (if Coursework failed) 2-hour Written Examination = 100% (if coursework and exam failed) 2-hour Written Examination = 100% (for Qualified Honours Entry)		
Module coordinator:	Dr V C J Dietrich-Bischoff		
Module teaching staff:	Team taught		

BL2309 Applied Molecular Biology			
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 8	Semester 2
Academic year:	2018/9		
Planned timetable:	Lectures: 10.00 am Thu, Fri (odd weeks) 10.00 am Wed, Thu, Fri (even weeks) Practicals: 2.00 - 5.00 pm Thu or Fri (weeks 2, 4, 6, 8 & 10)		
Techniques in molecular biology represent a powerful box of tools that are used to address a wide variety of modern research questions across a broad range of biological disciplines including; ecology, biotechnology, cell biology, medicine, conservation biology, infectious disease, evolution, genetics and synthetic biology. Key molecular biology techniques will be introduced in the context of case studies that will provide examples of how molecular biology techniques are being used in cutting edge research to address real-life questions and problems that impact health, food security, the environment and the economy.			
Pre-requisite(s):	Before taking this module you must pass BL1101 and pass BL1102		
Learning and teaching methods of delivery:	Weekly contact: 3 x 1-hour in even weeks and 2 x 1-hour in odd weeks, 3-hour practical (x 5 weeks)		
	Scheduled learning: 39 hours	Guided independent Study: 111 hours	
Assessment pattern:	As defined by QAA: Written Examinations = 50%, Practical Examinations = 50%, Coursework = 0%		
	As used by St Andrews: 2-hour Written Examination = 50%, Coursework = 50%		
Re-assessment pattern:	2-Hour Written Examination = 50%, Existing Coursework = 50% (if Exam failed) Existing Examination = 50%, New Coursework = 50% (if Coursework failed) 2-hour Written Examination = 100% (if coursework and exam failed) 2-hour Written Examination = 100% (for Qualified Honours Entry)		
Module coordinator:	Dr C S Adamson		
Module teaching staff:	Team taught		

Biology - 1000 & 2000 Level - 2018/9 - June - 2018

BL2310 Comparative Physiology			
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 8	Semester
Academic year:	2018/9		
Planned timetable:	Lectures: 12.00 noon Mon, Tue, (odd weeks) 12.00 noon Mon, Tue, Wed (even weeks) Practical classes: 2.00 - 5.00 pm Mon or Tue (weeks 3, 5, 7, 9, 11)		
A comparative physiologist studies organisms to explore the origins and nature of physiological diversity. This module covers the principles of physiological adaptation in a range of animals, including examples from all major taxa and from all habitats. The specific topics and components include: (1) the physiological consequences of body size and scaling effects; (2) respiratory and circulatory systems in vertebrates and invertebrates; (3) thermal physiology; (4) water balance in aquatic and land animals; (5) the mammalian kidney and its functioning; (6) sensory systems in different environments; (7) neural signaling and vertebrate senses; (8) control systems - hormones and pheromones; and (9) immunity and the maintenance of physiological integrity.			
Pre-requisite(s):	Before taking this module you must pass BL1101 and pass BL1102		
Anti-requisite(s)	You cannot take this module if you take BL2106		
Learning and teaching methods of delivery:	Weekly contact: 3 x 1-hour in even weeks and 2 x 1-hour in odd weeks, 3-hour practical (x 5 weeks)		
	Scheduled learning: 39 hours	Guided independent Study: 111 hours	
Assessment pattern:	As defined by QAA: Written Examinations = 50%, Practical Examinations = 50%, Coursework = 0%		
	As used by St Andrews: 2-hour Written Examination = 50%, Coursework = 50%		
Re-assessment pattern:	2-Hour Written Examination = 50%, Existing Coursework = 50% (if Exam failed) Existing Examination = 50%, New Coursework = 50% (if Coursework failed) 2-hour Written Examination = 100% (if coursework and exam failed) 2-hour Written Examination = 100% (for Qualified Honours Entry)		
Module coordinator:	Prof S D Healy		
Module teaching staff:	Team taught		