Course directory 2020.2021

school of biology (FBM-BIO)
master

* your selection

> Biology > Master of Science (MSc) in Molecular Life Sciences
NOTICE

This course catalogue was produced using data from the *SylviaAcad* information system of the University of Lausanne. Its database contains all information about courses proposed by the different faculties and their times. This data can also be consulted online at the address: https://applicationspub.unil.ch/interpub/noauth/php/Ud/index.php.

Web site of the faculty: http://www.unil.ch/ecoledebiologie/

Generated on: 09.11.2021
NAME OF THE COURSE

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<tr>
<th>Type of course</th>
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N: Levels

P: Programme requirements

O: Objective

C: Content

B: Bibliography

I: Additional information

ABBREVIATIONS

TYPE OF COURSE
- Attest. Attestation
- C Course
- C/S Course - seminar
- Cp Camp
- E Exercises
- Exc Excursion
- Lg Guided lecture
- S Seminar
- T Fieldwork
- TP Practical work

STATUS
- Fac Facultative
- Obl Compulsory
- Opt Optional
- Fac/Comp/Opt Facultative, compulsory or optional (according to the study programme)

SEMESTER
- Sp Spring
- A Autumn
The Master program has a normal duration of 3 semesters and comprises 90 ECTS:

- 16 ECTS: Module 1 (Compulsory courses (7 ECTS) + Optional courses (9 ECTS))
- 14 ECTS: Module 2 (First Step Project)
- 15 ECTS: Module 3 (Compulsory courses (6 ECTS) + Optional courses (9 ECTS))
- 45 ECTS: Personal research project (Master Thesis)

**Training objectives**

- Available in its programme regulations.

**Specific training objectives:** At the end of the course the students will be able to:

**Specialisation in Integrative Biology**

- Design experiments to analyse and understand genetic and genomic data.
- Obtain in-depth knowledge of statistics and bioinformatics applied to biology.
- Use computer programming techniques.

**Specialisation in Bioinformatics**

- Design experiments to analyse and understand genetic and genomic data.
- Maintain in-depth knowledge of statistics and bioinformatics applied to biology.
- Use computer programming techniques.

**Condition to obtain the specialisation**

- Obtain at least 18 ECTS credits in any field of study in Modules 1 and 3.

**Free choice for the First Step Project (Module 2) and the Master Thesis (Module 4)**

**Modules and Courses**

**Specialisation Integrative Biology**

- **Courses:**
  - Plant Interactions with Microbes and Insects
  - Immunology and Infectious Diseases
  - Bacterial Genomes and Genome Evolution
  - Génétique fonctionnelle des plantes
  - Mise en œuvre de protocoles expérimentaux
  - Études de cas en bioinformatique

- **ECTS Credits:**
  - 14 ECTS per semester
  - 2 ECTS for the First Step Project (Module 2)
  - 2 ECTS for the Master Thesis (Module 4)

**Specialisation in Bioinformatics**

- **Courses:**
  - Sequencing of a Genome I
  - Génométrie avancée des microorganismes
  - Études de cas en bioinformatique
  - Génomes bactériens et évolution du génome
  - Participation à des travaux de recherche

- **ECTS Credits:**
  - 14 ECTS per semester
  - 3 ECTS for the First Step Project (Module 2)
  - 3 ECTS for the Master Thesis (Module 4)

**Specialisation in Microbiology**

- **Courses:**
  - Plant Interactions with Microbes and Insects
  - Immunology and Infectious Diseases
  - Bacterial Genomes and Genome Evolution
  - Génomes bactériens et évolution du génome
  - Études de cas en bioinformatique

- **ECTS Credits:**
  - 14 ECTS per semester
  - 2 ECTS for the First Step Project (Module 2)
  - 2 ECTS for the Master Thesis (Module 4)

**Specialisation in Integrative Biology**

- **Courses:**
  - Propose research approaches in fundamental, medical or applied microbiology.
  - Pathogenesis, bacteriology, fungal biology, yeast models, epidemiology or synthetic biology.
  - Use computer programming techniques.
  - Mobilise in-depth knowledge of statistics and bioinformatics applied to biology.
  - Design experiments to analyse and understand genetic and genomic data.

- **ECTS Credits:**
  - 14 ECTS per semester
  - 3 ECTS for the First Step Project (Module 2)
  - 3 ECTS for the Master Thesis (Module 4)

**Specialisation in Bioinformatics**

- **Courses:**
  - Interprets data resulting from multiple phenomena: from the cell to the organism as a whole, in its normal and pathological states.
  - Mobilise multidisciplinary knowledge to design experiments that can involve the various levels of structural and functional organisation of the living.

- **ECTS Credits:**
  - 14 ECTS per semester
  - 3 ECTS for the First Step Project (Module 2)
  - 3 ECTS for the Master Thesis (Module 4)

**Specialisation in Integrative Biology**

- **Courses:**
  - Propose research approaches in fundamental, medical or applied microbiology.
  - Pathogenesis, bacteriology, fungal biology, yeast models, epidemiology or synthetic biology.
  - Use computer programming techniques.
  - Mobilise in-depth knowledge of statistics and bioinformatics applied to biology.
  - Design experiments to analyse and understand genetic and genomic data.

- **ECTS Credits:**
  - 14 ECTS per semester
  - 3 ECTS for the First Step Project (Module 2)
  - 3 ECTS for the Master Thesis (Module 4)

**Specific training objectives:**

- 45 ECTS: Personal research project (Master Thesis)
- 15 ECTS: Module 3 (Compulsory courses (6 ECTS) + Optional courses (9 ECTS))
- 16 ECTS: Module 1 (Compulsory courses (7 ECTS) + Optional courses (9 ECTS))

**Total:** 90 ECTS

**Abbreviations**

- C = Course
- E/S = Exercise/Seminar
- PW = Practical Work

**Teaching Staff**

- Benton R., …
- Engel P., van der Meer J., tutors
- Poirier Y., Resch G.
- van Leeuwen J.
- Braissant O.
- Poirier Y.
- Schütz F.
- Salamin N., Bergmann S., Ciriello G., Trejo Banos D.
- Collier J., Pelet S.
- Lamoth F., Häuser P.
- Reger T., Peumau M., Di Domizio J.
- Keel C., Reymond P.
- Gouttenoire J.
BIOLOGICAL SECURITY

Patrick Michaux

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N: Master

P: A basic knowledge of microbiology and vegetal science

O: To familiarise future researchers with legislation concerning genetic engineering. In addition, possible biological risks associated to different applications of this technology will be discussed with the help of examples. This teaching is a mandatory prerequisite for First-Step.

C:
- Legislation: article 24 of the Federal Constitution; law concerning environmental protection; law concerning epidemics; ordinance on protection against major accidents; Swiss commissions on biological security: notification and registration of projects.
- Biological security in the laboratory: containment; security equipment; technical measures: laboratory construction; standard laboratory (microbiological) practice; classification of biological material: plasmids, microorganisms, cell lines, primary cells; security levels 1-4.
- Release of genetically modified bacteria in the environment: monitoring, survival and dissemination, ecological impact, transfer of genes, containment systems.
- Potential biological risks associated with the use of transgenic plants: dissemination, cross-pollination, gene transfer.
- The problem of recombinant vaccines: vectors, DNA vaccines.
- Somatic genetic therapy I: Illnesses accessible to treatment by somatic genetic therapy, gene transfer methods.
- Somatic genetic therapy II: Evaluation of the biological risk for the patient and his environment.
### RETREAT AND BIG SEMINARS

Richard Benton, Edward Elliston Farmer

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**N:** Master

**O:** Research seminars are a very important mode of communication/information sharing in the scientific community. The goal is to get students exposed to this important part of life of a scientist. The goal of the MLS Master Retreat is to inform students about courses, labs in which they can perform their experiments and other practical aspects related to the programme. Each year we also invite a speaker from the non-academic research world (e.g. Nestlé, Novartis). We also initiate the “Write-a-Review” course during the retreat.

**C:** BIG seminars: seminar series given by world-class scientists. MLS retreat: 1 and a half days in the mountains for conferences, courses and discussions.
SEQUENCE A GENOME (PART I)

Philipp Engel

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N: Master

O: The goals of this class are to understand and practice the road map of sequencing, assembly and annotating a (bacterial) genome.

C: The class is a combination of both practical aspects, theory, bioinformatics and presentation of genome analysis. We will work in small student groups.

The class starts with a short introduction on the biology of the microorganisms to be sequenced, introductions to high-throughput sequence technology and assembly.

After that a number of sessions in bioinformatics follow, first to learn to communicate in Unix, then to run assemblies on the sequence data sets produced by LGF.

We will teach and practice annotation and subsystems analysis.

In the second (8th) semester, the class is followed with another practical part, annotation of the major important functions in the genome and presentation of results.

I: http://www.unil.ch/sequenceagenome/
WRITE A REVIEW

Richard Benton

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N: Master

O: Establish the current state of the art in a chosen research field. Formulate the current knowledge in the form of a review article. Learn basic aspects of scientific writing. Learn how to work as a team.

C: Students form groups of 2-3 and work under the guidance of an expert of the field (the tutor) to write a review article. Students have to follow precise guidelines regarding the review format. Further information will be provided at the MLS Retreat and via the MLS Moodle.
BIOTECHNOLOGY

Yves Poirier

N: Master

P: None

O: Get exposure to some themes in animal, plant and microbial biotechnologies as well as to aspects relating to patenting and the biotechnology business.

C: Some of the general topics discussed will be:

- What is biotechnology, and what is it good for?
- What is a patent and is it useful to submit one as a biologist?
- How do universities and scientists valorize their research findings?
- Some examples of themes in biotechnology will be:
  - Biopolymers
  - Pollutant remediation
  - Biofactories
  - Biosensors
  - Agriculture and transgenesis
  - Bacteriophage therapy
  - Red biotechnology (e.g. for medical use)
  - Gene drive and genome editing technology (CRISPR/Cas9)

External speakers with expertise in the field of patents, creating a start-up in biotechnology and working in the biotechnology industry, will be invited to share their knowledge and point-of-view.

B: Introduction to Biotechnology, 2nd edition
W.J. Thieman and M. A. Palladino
Pearson International Edition
## CRISPR-CAS9 GENOME EDITING

Jolanda van Leeuwen

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**N:** Master

**P:** Practical work performed during the bachelor (molecular biology, genetics, biochemistry, bioinformatics)

**O:** This course teaches both the practical as well as the theoretical aspects of CRISPR-based genome editing in cultured human cells

**C:** The course is a combination of theory, practical work in the lab, and practical work behind the computer. More specifically, topics covered in this course are:

- Theory: introduction to CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing, different types of CRISPR genome editing systems, CRISPR-fusion enzymes (CRISPRi, CRISPRa, base editing, methylation, precision editing, etc), and CRISPR screening
- Wet lab work: assembling CRISPR-Cas9 guide RNA particles, transfection into cultured human cells, monitoring the outcome of gene editing using fluorescence microscopy
- Dry lab work: guide RNA design, design of homologous recombination templates, predicting gene editing outcomes
DEVELOPMENT OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

Olivier Braissant

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English  14

N: Master

O: Molecular and cellular mechanisms of brain development in vertebrates, including the main pathologies affecting CNS development. Important accent on the various experimental models used to analyze vertebrate CNS development, both in vivo and in vitro.

C: The course is taught on 14 hours (3x 4h lecture, 1x 2h article presentations by students). The course is subdivided in 8 sub-chapters:
1: CNS cell types & brain metabolism.
2: Experimental models for the developing brain.
3: Early development of vertebrate CNS.
4: Neural crests and peripheral nervous system.
5: Fundamental principles of CNS development.
6: Molecular aspects of CNS development.
7: Isolation and contacts between CNS and periphery.
8: Pathologies of CNS development.
Students have also to prepare and present recent articles on these themes.
MOLECULAR MECHANISMS OF EVOLUTION

Richard Benton

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N: Master

P: Students should have a solid background in molecular genetics and developmental/cell biology as well as basic knowledge of evolutionary biology.

O: To explore our current understanding of the molecular mechanisms underlying phenotypic differences between species, using examples from animals and plants.
   - What are the specific genetic loci underlying divergence of traits?
   - How do you identify these loci and prove they are responsible?
   - What are the functional changes in these loci?
   - What kinds of changes are possible?
   - What is the origin of the functional variation in natural populations?
   - How do the properties of populations influence evolution?
   - Are there common principles in how evolution works across species and across traits?
   - If so, why? If not, why not?

C: The course begins with 2 periods of lectures, to introduce some of the main theoretical concepts of the topic. The subsequent three 4-period blocks will consist of student-led discussions of relevant research articles, which will be made available on MyUNIL and should be read in advance of each discussion session.
# PLANT FUNCTIONAL GENETICS

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**English** 14

**N:** Master

**P:** Good understanding of molecular biology

**O:** Get an overview of the spectrum of genetic and genomic tools used to isolate and decipher the role of genes involved in various aspects of plant biology

**C:**
- A Gene expression and transgenesis
- Agrobacterium and biolistic
- Transient vs. stable transformation
- Inducible promoters
- Viral vectors
- Transformation of plastids
- B Tools used in forward and reverse genetics
- Mutagenesis and gene mapping
- T-DNA and transposon tagging
- RNAi
- Homologous recombination
- Genome editing
DATA ANALYSIS

Nicolas Salamin

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N: Master

P: We assume nothing more than the mathematics you would have obtained in your studies when you were 18.

O: In this course the goal is to be able to formulate hypotheses properly, design experiments, whether in the laboratory, in a clinic, or in the field, that have sufficient power to test these hypotheses, conduct appropriate statistical tests of the data generated, generate clear figures, and interpret the results obtained.

C: We will cover:
1. Distributions and random variables
2. Variance, covariance and measures of association
3. Constructing statistical tests using distributions
4. Regression
5. Non-linear regression
### ADVANCED DATA ANALYSIS

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**N:** Master

**P:** You must have attended the first data analysis course, or convince me that you are competent at basic statistical analyses.

**O:** The aim of this course is to build upon the data analysis course, to prepare you to handle a range of different data and more complex analysis problems.

**C:** In this course we will cover:
1. Repeated measures models and mixed effects models.
2. Survival analyses
3. Bayesian statistical inference
# CASE STUDIES IN BIOINFORMATICS

Sven Bergmann

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N: Master
PROGRAMMING FOR BIOINFORMATICS

Nicolas Salamin

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N: Master

P: There are not prerequisites for this course. The students are however expected to be familiar with computers. They should have a good understanding of the functioning of a computer (hardware components, operating system/file system). A basic knowledge of UNIX/LINUX would be good, although it is not essential. It will be necessary to install the following software on your own laptop: - python3 with the modules numpy and biopython - a text editor with syntax highlighting (simple one or IDE) - for windows user: a terminal environment (e.g. cygwin or MinGW)

C: We will cover the following aspects of programing in Python:
   1) basic syntax
   2) data types in Python
## ADVANCED MICROBIAL GENETICS

Justine Collier Close, Serge Pelet

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**English** 14

**N:** Master

**P:** - Bachelor course "Génétique Moléculaire des Bactéries" - Bachelor course "Génétique des modèles eukaryotes"

**O:** - Think logically about experimental approaches.
- Illustrate how cleverly designed genetic experiments can provide answers to fundamental problems.
- Learn about new technology developments in genome-wide screens.
- Read the scientific literature critically.

**C:** - Lecture on prokaryotic genetics (JC)
- Lecture on eukaryotic genetics (SP)
- Assisted and critical reading of publications
**BACTERIA GENOMES AND GENOME EVOLUTION**

Jan Roelof van der Meer

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**N:** Master

**O:** Discover bacterial genome evolution at the example of life in the ocean, in particular that of the 'Prochlorococcus federation' of phototrophic bacteria.

Learn how to interpret genomic data and bacterial metabolism with the help of online databases.

**C:** The class is a mix of subjects that are introduced by the teacher, classical reading and self-working in class, notably by interrogating metabolic databases

1) Overview of utilities for interpretation of bacterial genomes (databases, online programs) - Self-learning and practise using specific examples

2) History of discoveries in bacterial genome evolution at the example of the Prochlorococcus federation of species in the oceans

3) Understanding bacterial genome evolution (literature reading)

**B:** Ad hoc research articles.
Fungal Virulence and Pathogenicity

Dominique Sanglard

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N: Master

O: The lecture will illustrate the importance of different human fungal pathogens and give their principal characteristics. General principles of fungal pathogenesis will be given with illustrative examples.

C: A first part of the lecture will be given by D. Sanglard (8h)
   1) Characteristics of principal fungal pathogens
      Candida, Cryptococcus, Aspergillus, Pneumocystis, Dermatophytes
   2) Fungal cell walls: interface with the environment
   3) Host/pathogen interactions, virulence and dimorphism
   4) Strategies of fungi used for host survival
   5) Papers discussions

A second part will be given by P. Hauser:
   Pneumocystis and dimorphic fungal pathogens
   1) Presentation of the medical aspects, epidemiology, virulence factors, and pathogenicity of Pneumocystis jirovecii and dimorphic fungal pathogens (2 h).
   2) Analysis of a research related article (1 h)
   3) Demonstration in the laboratory of the methods used for identification and drug sensitivity measurement of clinically important fungi (1 h).

A third part will be given by M. Monod:
   1) Aspergilli
   2) Relevance of asparatic proteases in virulence (2 h)
   3) Demonstration in the laboratory of the methods used for identification of clinically important fungi (1 h)
   4) Analysis of a research related article (1 h).
IMMUNOLOGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES
Thierry Roger

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N: Master

B: Lecture 1-3:

Lecture 4:
- Wherry et al., Molecular and cellular insights into T cell exhaustion, Nature Reviews in Immunology 2015
- Pitman et al., Barriers and strategies to achieve a cure for HIV, The Lancet, 2018

Lecture 5:
- [https://www.world-sepsis-day.org/](https://www.world-sepsis-day.org/)
PLANT INTERACTIONS WITH MICROBES AND INSECTS

Christoph Keel

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N: Master

O: to provide students with knowledge on how intricate interactions between plants and beneficial or detrimental organisms are operating at the molecular level

C: Part C. Keel

"Molecular basis of host specificity in phytophogenic bacteria"
The course illustrates the sophisticated molecular mechanisms by which plant pathogenic bacteria subvert plant defense mechanisms, focusing on bacterial injection devices (type III secretion systems) and virulence and avirulence proteins delivered directly into the plant host cell. The effector injection machinery of the plant pathogens is compared to that of human pathogenic bacteria to highlight the conservation of the virulence strategy.

Part P. Reymond

"Molecular study of plant-insects interactions"
The course describes the molecular mechanisms by which a plant detects the presence of an herbivore attack and responds to it by inducing hundreds of genes. It presents recent findings on the suppression of plant defense responses by insects. Finally, examples of insects that are useful for defending plants against other enemies are provided.

Exercise: Students designing research
In a final part of the course, students will design research approaches based on the topics presented during the three lecture parts and on questions provided by the lecturers. Student inputs will be discussed collectively, with the aim to highlight common and contrasting aspects occurring during interaction of microbes and insects with plants.
## VIRUS-HOST INTERACTIONS

**Jérôme Gouttenoire**

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**N:** Master

**P:** Cours virologie générale 5th semester (20 hours) Kunz

**O:** To understand fundamental principles of virus-host interaction at an advanced level.
To understand basic principles of virus cell pathology.
To understand the molecular and cellular mechanisms of innate anti-viral immunity, including pathogen recognition, signaling, and the cellular interferon response.
To understand the basic principles of viral pathogenesis at the systemic level.

**C:** Teaching: Pascal Meylan, Jérôme Gouttenoire, Stefan Kunz
Innate defense against viruses (S. Kunz)
Receptors and signaling of innate anti-viral defense
The interferon response
Virus infection and anti-viral defense in the nervous system (S. Kunz)
Virus invasion of the central nervous system
Anti-viral defense in the nervous system
Basic principles of cellular and molecular viral pathogenesis (J. Gouttenoire)
Viral pathogenesis at the level of the organism (P. Meylan)
Lectures combined with discussion of key papers in the course

**B:** Sera donnée lors du cours
FIRST STEP PROJECT
Richard Benton, Marie-Christine Broillet, Antoine Guisan, Tadeusz Kawecki, Laurent Lehmann, Marc Robinson-Rechavi

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N: Master
P: Practicals performed during the bachelor (molecular biology, genetics, biochemistry, bioinformatics)
O: - An initiation to the work of a scientist
   - Conduct experimental work in research lab (wet bench or in silico)
   - Interpretation of research results
   - Implement basic principles in experimental design (e.g. include the appropriate controls, statistical significance of the results etc...)
   - Present your experimental work in a written report which will be organized like a typical research article (introduction, results, discussion, materials and methods)
   - Present your work orally (seminar style)
C: Perform laboratory work for about 12 weeks during the time when the student does not follow theoretical classes. This research project will typically be performed under the guidance of a PhD student or a post-doc from the host laboratory.
Due to the sanitary evolution related to COVID-19, the study plans may be adapted during the semester as follows:

- possibility to switch from one mode of teaching to another (face-to-face <-> distance, synchronous <-> asynchronous, switch to co-modal teaching where it was not initially planned).
- adaptation of evaluation modalities, without inducing derogations from the Study Regulations (oral <-> written, exam <-> validation, individual work <-> group work, practical work <-> theoretical work, face-to-face evaluation <-> online evaluation, etc.).
- alternative or time-shifted modalities for teachings, internships, practical work, fieldworks and camps that could not take place or teachings that could no longer take place in the form initially planned.

Students are invited to consult this document regularly (Study Plan & Evaluation Procedure).

### Spring Semester (semester 2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses / Enseignements</th>
<th>Hours per semester</th>
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<td>Domestication des animaux et des plantes : de l'historie aux mécanismes moléculaires</td>
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<td>Comparative Genomics : from Thousands of Genomes to Single Cells (MSc BEC)</td>
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### Spring Semester (semester 2) and Autumn Semester (semester 3)

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* Students can choose some courses of the Master of Science (MSc) in Behaviour, Evolution and Conservation (max 3 ECTS credits)

** Only students who choose a master project with animal experimentation are allowed to select this course

Due to the sanitary evolution related to COVID-19, the study plans may be adapted during the semester as follows:

- possibility to switch from one mode of teaching to another (face-to-face <-> distance, synchronous <-> asynchronous, switch to co-modal teaching where it was not initially planned).
- adaptation of evaluation modalities, without inducing derogations from the Study Regulations (oral <-> written, exam <-> validation, individual work <-> group work, practical work <-> theoretical work, face-to-face evaluation <-> online evaluation, etc.).
- alternative or time-shifted modalities for teachings, internships, practical work, fieldworks and camps that could not take place or teachings that could no longer take place in the form initially planned.

Students are invited to consult this document regularly (Study Plan & Evaluation Procedure).
# SEQUENCE A GENOME (PART II)

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**N:** Master

**P:** Sequence a genome I (compulsory)

**O:** The goals of the second part of this class are to learn how to carry out a comparative genome analysis. Groups of three students will work on different analysis projects. At the end of the course, students will present their results to the other groups, try to integrate the different results, and relate it to the biology of the organisms in question.

**C:** Following up on the first semester, students will carry out a comparative genome analysis covering various aspects such as:
- Comparison of genome structures
- Inferring genome-wide phylogenetic trees
- Identifying clade-specific gene families
- Assessing gene family evolution
- Identifying mobile genetic elements
- Inferring gene functions by homology and literature search
- Working in a team and integrating results with other groups
- Writing and presenting the results

**I:** [http://www.unil.ch/sequenceagenome/](http://www.unil.ch/sequenceagenome/)
WRITE A FELLOWSHIP

N: Master

O: - Construct meaningful hypotheses in the context of a particular open question in the field (typically related to the master project of the student)
   - Develop an experimental strategy that tests these hypotheses
   - Formulate this experimental strategy in the form of a grant application
   - Present your work in a concise oral presentation
   - Appreciate the granting system used to fund biological research

C: The student writes a research proposal that is typically addressing questions in the research area related to his/her master project. The research proposal has to follow precise guidelines. The student is closely supervised by his/her master supervisor who serves as the tutor for this course. The written proposal and a short oral presentation are both evaluated.
**EPIGENETICS AND CELL DIFFERENTIATION**

Susan Gasser

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**N:** Master

**O:** Epigenetics in Development: Regulation of gene expression and of chromatin function is pivotal for the understanding of developmental programs, cellular homeostasis and many disease states. The transcription process is critically linked to the regulation of chromatin function. Epigenetic mechanisms such as histone modifications can transmit active/inactive states of a gene through cellular divisions, which are particularly relevant during early mammalian development. Epigenetic states also respond to stress and environmental factors. The study of transcription, chromatin regulation and early development received a great impetus through the availability of whole genome sequences, and novel high-throughput sequencing technologies. The integration of biochemistry, molecular biology, genomics, proteomics and cell biology now provides unprecedented insight into transcription and chromatin regulation in health and disease.

**C:** This course will cover the crucial concepts of regulation of gene expression by chromatin focusing on concepts derived from developmental and stress-response states. Epigenetics, chromatin and genome organization will be discussed. The themes we will discuss: genome/gene organization, chromatin remodeling and chromatin modifications, epigenetic inheritance, nuclear organization, C. elegans development and cell lineage specification. Even if you are only peripherally interested in the mechanisms of gene expression, epigenetics and development, this course is for you.
# EPITRANSCRIPTOMICS AND RNA DYNAMICS

Jean-Yves Rognant

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N: Master
GENOMICS, PROTEOMICS AND QUANTITATIVE GENETICS

Paul Franken

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N: Master

O: Get acquainted with the various experimental approaches and technologies to address fundamental principles of gene and genome function.

C: This course consists of four main components. Together these components introduce and give an overview of functional genomics from gene transcription to the protein, and, finally, the phenotype. Besides providing a background, the techniques applied in the various approaches will be emphasized.

1. Genomic technologies and applications:
   - Sequencing technologies; from Sanger to Gattaca (history, technical principles, limitations, evolution, and future)
   - Technical discussion about genomics applications, their interests and limitations

2. Epigenetics and Chromatin structure:
   - What is epigenetics?
   - Dynamics of chromatin structure
   - Pros and cons of the techniques utilized to quantify and identify chromatin modifications

3. Proteomics:
   - Introduction to expression proteomics (analysis of protein expression levels and their changes) and functional proteomics (functional relationships between proteins)
   - Introduction to separation techniques (liquid chromatography, 2D electrophoresis, mass spectrometry), typical workflows in which these techniques can be applied, and bioinformatics analysis
   - Discussion of the potential and limitations of the proteomics approach to study complex biological systems

4. Analysis of Quantitative Traits:
   - Introduction into quantitative genetics and statistical issues related to mapping of Quantitative Trait Loci (QTL)
   - Mapping strategies in humans and in model and non-model organisms
   - Introduction to Systems Genetics
   - Introduction to the use of a QTL mapping tool; WebQTL
# HERBIVORY: WHY IS THE EARTH GREEN?

**Edward Elliston Farmer**

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**N:** Master

**P:** Admission into the Masters programme and Bachelors in biology or a related subject

**O:** Understand why leaves are so abundant on earth

**C:** Leaf energetics and herbivore diets, physical defenses, coevolution of leaves and stomachs, molecular targets of leaf defense chemicals, the growth/defense dilemma

Note: this is an interactive, question-based course requiring active participation

May involve some field trips depending on weather, Covid etc.

**B:** Fourni sur MyUNIL avant et durant le cours
# Metabolic Signaling Pathways in Health and Disease

**Lluis Fajas Coll**

<table>
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**N:** Master
PLANT AND ANIMAL DOMESTICATION: FROM HISTORY TO MOLECULAR MECHANISMS

Christian Hardtke

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N: Master

P: BSc level understanding of genetics.

O: Provide an overview of the genetic diversity present in species and how this was used by mankind in the process of domestication. Learn how to orally present a scientific paper about this topic to your fellow master & bachelor students.

C: - A brief history of agriculture
- Genetic basis underlying the diversity in species
- Methods used by humans to select plant and animal varieties used in agriculture
- How can major domestication traits be identified?
- Examples of domestication traits such as behaviour, seed shattering, taste (e.g. bitterness in cucumber), altitude adaptation, latitude adaptation, requirement for vernalization.
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N: Master
LIST OF COURSES

School of Biology (FBM-BIO)

LTK1 MODULE : TRAINING IN ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION
Marie-Christine Broillet

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O: Learning outcomes
   To acquire the practical and theoretical skills with laboratory animals as requested by legislation (Swiss ordinance N° 455.171.2, October 1998) to get the accreditation to perform animal experimentation delivered by the Federal Veterinary Office.
   This course (20h theory + 20h practical) will be recognized by the Swiss federal veterinary office to undertake animal experiments.

C: What is animal experimentation?
   Any interventions in which live animals are used to:
   - Test a scientific hypothesis in various fields (behavior, neurology, metabolism, immunology, cardiovascular...)
   - Verify the effects of a particular procedure on an animal
   - Test a substance (pharmacology, toxicology...)
   - Collect or examine cells, organs or body fluids
   - Education, training and continuing education
   Choosing an appropriate animal model
   - Before an animal model is chosen, investigators must consider alternatives to the use of live animals (3Rs)
   - Investigators must consider all factors when selecting the best model for research
   Who is concerned by this module?
   This training module is relevant to all students working with animals during their master project.

Conditions for registration to this module:
- The host laboratory must have permission to work with animals
- Students must be announced to the cantonal veterinary office
DESIGN AND BUILD A SYNTHETIC BIOLOGICAL SYSTEM II (IGEM PROJECT)

Yolanda Schaerli

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N: Master

P: No prior knowledge of synthetic biology is required. You need to be highly motivated and you are expected to work on the iGEM project during the summer break (which can give 3 additional ECTS credits). Please be also aware that there will additional workload in the autumn semester (which can give 1 additional ECTS credit) to prepare for the Giant Jamboree. Please note that the number of ECTS credits and the actual workload are disconnected. Participants: minimum 4, maximum 12; students will be selected based on their application file (available here: https://www.yschaerli.com/iGEM.html).

O: This course is for students who want to take part at the International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) competition (www.igem.org). This is a worldwide synthetic biology competition. Synthetic Biology is an emerging interdisciplinary field combining aspects of molecular biology, systems biology, biotechnology, genetic engineering, computer science and many more to improve our understanding of biological systems and to create useful tools to solve everyday problems. The UNIL team can be composed of Bachelor and Master students in biology and other disciplines.

By the end of the course, you are expected to be able to:
- Discuss the definition of synthetic biology
- Discuss tools and approaches used for engineering biological systems
- Discuss the societal implications of synthetic biology
- Develop a project and plan on how to execute it
- Conduct independent experiments in a research (wet or dry) lab and document them
- Present and defend a research project in front of a panel of international judges
- Work in a multidisciplinary team
- Show initiative, creativity, critical thinking and leadership skills

C: During the first part of the course you will get a short introduction to synthetic biology, with a focus on microbial system. Next, you will brainstorm for project ideas from which the team will choose one. The team will then model and ultimately build the proposed genetically engineered machine in the wet-lab during the summer. In addition to carry out the project, the competition involves many elements such as fund raising, design a team logo, organise outreach activities, get into contact with stakeholders affected by your project, document your project on a dedicated homepage, prepare a poster and a presentation. You will also have the opportunity to interact with other Swiss iGEM teams and to present your project at the Giant Jamboree in Boston (USA) October 28 - November 2, 2020, where you will meet other teams around the world. (Travel costs will be covered).

I: https://www.yschaerli.com/iGEM.html
**SUPPLEMENT : SEQUENCE A GENOME**

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N: Master
## ADVANCED POPULATION GENETICS

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B: Textbooks and relevant articles:
- Mark Stoneking, An introduction to Molecular Anthropology
- John Wakeley, Coalescent theory, an introduction
**BIOINFORMATIC ALGORITHMS**

Christophe Dessimoz

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**N:** Master

**P:** The course assumes familiarity with basic programming concepts (variable and function declaration, arrays, for-loops, conditional statements, etc.). Algorithms are introduced from a practical angle so the mathematical formalism is kept at a minimum.

**O:** The course aims at improving the student’s programming skills by gaining a deep understanding of some of the key algorithms in bioinformatics, with a special emphasis on sequence and graph algorithms. Students will learn widely applicable concepts, such as asymptotic time complexity, binary search, dynamic programming, hashing. Practicals and home assignments are essential parts of the course. The language of the course is Python, though the concepts covered in the course are applicable to all computer languages.

More info, including dates, rooms, and link to Moodle page:
https://lab.dessimoz.org/teaching/bioinfalgo/
## COMPUTATIONAL THINKING IN BIOMEDICINE

Giovanni Ciriello

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N: Master
### COMPARATIVE GENOMICS: FROM THOUSANDS OF GENOMES TO SINGLE CELLS

Roman Arguello

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## INDUSTRIAL BIOINFORMATICS

Ioannis Xenarios

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PHYLOGENY AND COMPARATIVE METHODS

Nicolas Salamin

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O: Phylogenetic reconstruction methods and their application in evolutionary biology. To know and understand phylogenetic reconstruction methods in order to test the processes leading to genes and organisms evolution.

C: The subjects will be presented during lectures as well as practicals.
   I. Reconstruction methods
      - What is a phylogenetic tree and how to interpret it?
      - Tree reconstruction:
         a) optimisation criteria and models of evolution
         b) search for the optimum tree
         c) Bayesian methods
      - Can we trust the inferred tree?
   II. Uses for phylogenetic trees
      - Detecting positive selection in a coding gene
      - Testing coevolution and cospeciation
      - Macroevolution:
         a) dating evolutionary events
         b) tempo and mode of evolution
         c) testing for key innovations
      - Phylogeny and conservation


I: http://www.unil.ch/phylo/teaching/pmc.html
### ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS

**Dominique Sanglard**

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**N:** Master

**O:** Description:
- The aims of this class is to understand the mode of action and resistance to principal anti-infective agents used for the therapy of infectious diseases. Diverse classes of agents will be discussed which are used to combat bacterial, viral, fungal and parasitic infections. The molecular basis of resistance to these agents will be also illustrated by several examples.
- The class is also associates with paper reading and presentations
- Learning outcomes:
  - to learn about the mode of actions of anti-infective agents
  - to learn about molecular resistance mechanisms developing in microbial pathogens.

**C:**
- Part Ciuffi: Antiviral agents (2h)
- Part Anthony Croxatto and Hauser: antibacterial and antiparasitic agents (4 each); paper discussion and presentation
- Part Sanglard: Antifungal agents (3h)
BACTERIAL VIRULENCE AND PATHOGENESIS

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School of Biology (FBM-BIO)
CHROMOSOME ORGANIZATION AND DYNAMICS

Stephan Gruber

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| O: | 1) Getting to know a new technology for chromosome and genome biology: «chromosome conformation capture»
2) Familiarize with main «chromosome architecture proteins» in theory and practice (TP) |
| C: | 1) Basis of chromosome conformation capture and applications (Hi-C)
a) From single bacterial chromosomes to complex genomes
b) Gene regulation, genome evolution & human disease
2) From proteins and DNA towards folded chromosomes
a) SMC protein complexes: Architecture, action, function
b) Advanced protein purification on ÄKTA systems (hands-on) |

Research on chromosome dynamics has made excellent progress in recent years driven by a technological revolution (‘conformation capture’ or 3C or Hi-C) with implications for our understanding of fundamental processes as well as disease-related mechanisms. This module aims to provide an overview of these recent advances.

6 hr lectures (on Zoom)
3 hr paper discussion (on Zoom)
8 hr TP (protein purification on ÄKTA purifier) (in real life - in small groups of max. 3 students to get hand-on experience)

I: see my.unil.ch/cours
ENVIRONMENTAL MICROBIOLOGY

Jan Roelof van der Meer

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N: Master

P: none.

O: The goal of this class is to develop a small literature project independently on a topic of choice in environmental microbiology.
Maximum number of participants: 10

C: The topics of this class are chosen by the students individually, in discussion with the class tutor.
EPIDEMIOLOGY OF HUMAN PATHOGENS

Dominique Blanc

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English 14

N: Master

O: Acquire principles of epidemiology by the study of several examples of pathogens. Knowledge on molecular typing methods and their applications. Knowledge on bacterial population genetics.

The general aim of this class is to get detailed knowledge on the use of microbial systems (including viruses, bacteria and yeast) as tools in several fields of experimental biology (microbial pathogenesis, genetic engineering applications, gene therapy).

The class is associated with reading and presentations of paper related to this topic.

Part Ciuffi
Description:
The aim of this class is to open up your mind and make you think out of the box, thereby making you look at viruses beyond their pathogenicity and more as potential tools that can be used for many diverse applications.

To appreciate the potential of viruses as tools in molecular biology, this class will give you a non-exhaustive list of applications in which viruses are used as tools.

Examples will include the use of viruses as pesticides, gene delivery vehicles, vaccines, tools in gene expression studies and in cellular biology studies.

Learning outcomes:
- To realize that viruses are not only pathogens.
- To realize that viruses can be used as tools in multiple applications.
- To understand that fundamental knowledge about viruses can be useful for secondary applications.
- To appreciate the diversity of viruses and their differences in replication, and thus the diversity of applications in which they can be exploited.
- To identify the viral steps that can be manipulated. To know how to manipulate these viral steps and why.
- To appreciate impact of viruses in the current society.

Part Sanglard
Description:
The aims of this class is to show the importance of genetic screens for the identification of novel biological functions related to microbial virulence and to therapeutic targets. Specifically, the aims are the following:
- To understand how genetic screens can contribute to identify virulence factors in bacteria and yeast.
- To show how genetic screens can serve the identification of genes involved in the recognition of fungal PAMP by the immune system.
- To show how genetic screens can contribute to identify novel therapeutic targets in pathogenic yeast.

Learning outcomes:
- To appreciate how methodologies can be employed in genetic screens.
- To realize how bacterial and yeast genetics can address and solve biological problems.
MICROBIAL CYTOSKELETON - A SCIENTIFIC WRITING CLASS

Sophie Martin

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S: Master


O: The objectives of this course are to:
1) gain general knowledge on the organisation and function of the cytoskeleton in prokaryotes and eukaryotes
2) learn to read scientific articles in a critical manner, by discussing the strong and weak points of each article.
3) train de writing of scientific texts.

C: The course will introduce the following topics:
- general principles of the actin and microtubule cytoskeleton
- cytoskeletal dynamics (dynamic instability and treadmilling)
- motor proteins
- organisation and role of the cytoskeleton in bacteria
- organisation and role of the cytoskeleton in eukaryotic cells (several themes will be covered, depending on the choice of the articles to be discussed, for instance: mitotic spindle, cell division, cell polarity,...)

The exercises will consist of the reading of scientific articles and writing of their summary, including a session of summary correction and writing exercises.

B: Les papiers à lire et discuter seront annoncés lors du premier cours
VIRAL PATHOGENESIS AND EMERGING VIRUSES

Angela Teresa Ciuffi

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E  Opt  English  4
S

N: Master

P: Course Virologie BSc. 5th semester
   Course Virus-Host Interactions, Master MLS 7th semester

O: The course will cover fundamental principles of viral pathogenesis at the molecular, systemic, and population level. An introductory block will address the basic principles of viral pathogenesis and introduce major human pathogenic viruses. This will be followed by individual blocks given by experts in the field that cover the pathogenesis of major human viral diseases, including viral hepatitis (Gouttenoire), human retroviruses (Ciuffi), and emerging human pathogenic viruses (Moreno) discussing landmark papers in the field. A last block will illustrate the power of genome screening approaches to identify host factors that confer susceptibility to viral infection and play a role in pathogenesis (Ciuffi).

C: Teaching: Angela Ciuffi, Jérôme Gouttenoire, Hector Moreno
   Basic concepts in viral pathogenesis (H. Moreno)
   Major human pathogenic viruses and emerging viral diseases (H. Moreno)
   Viral hepatitis (J. Gouttenoire)
   Human retroviral infections (A. Ciuffi)
   Genome screening approaches in viral infectious diseases (A. Ciuffi)
   Introductory lectures will be given by the teachers.
   Landmark papers will be presented by students and discussed in the group.
