DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE COURSE– 18:

Evolutionary Biology
Zoo-DSC-18

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course(if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Evolutionary Biology Zoo-DSC- 18	**04**	**02**	**Nil**	**02**	**Passed Class XII with Biology/ Biotechnology**	**NIL**

Learning Objectives

The learning objectives of this course are as follows:

- to understand evolutionary forces leading to the variations and diversification of species.
- to learn about deciphering evidences ranging from fossil records to molecular data and to establish phylogenetic relationships of species.
- to gain knowledge of the processes and patterns of biological evolution.
- to get acquainted with origin and evolution of man.
- to acquire problem solving and high order analytical skills by attempting numerical problems as well as performing simulation studies of various evolutionary forces in action.

Learning Outcomes

By studying this course, students will be able to:

- gain knowledge about the relationship of the evolution of various species and the environment they live in.
- apply knowledge gained, on populations in real time, while studying speciation, behaviour and susceptibility to diseases.
- better understand the study of variations, genetic drift to ensure that conservation efforts for small threatened populations are focused in right direction.
- predict the practical implication of various evolutionary forces acting on the human population in the field of human health, agriculture and wildlife conservation.
- use various software to generate interest towards the field of bioinformatics and coding used in programming language.

SYLLABUS OF DSC-18

UNIT- 1 Historical Review of Evolutionary Concepts **2 hrs**

Lamarckism, Darwinism, Neo-Darwinism

UNIT- 2: Beginning of Life **3 hrs**

Chemogeny, RNA world, biogeny, origin of photosynthesis, endo-symbiotic theory

UNIT- 3: Evidences of Evolution **5 hrs**

Palaeontological: geological time scale; phylogeny of horse;
Molecular: neutral theory of evolution, molecular clock, example of globin gene family, rRNA/Cyt c.

UNIT- 4: Raw Material for Evolution **3 hrs**

Variations: Heritable variations and their role in evolution

Unit 5: Process of Evolution **6 hrs**

Qualitative studies: Natural selection, types of natural selection, artificial selection, kin selection, adaptive resemblances, sexual selection, frequency dependent selection.
Quantitative studies: Natural selection (concept of fitness, selection coefficient), genetic drift (founder's effect, bottleneck phenomenon), migration and mutation (genetic load).

UNIT- 6: Product of Evolution **4 hrs**

Speciation: micro-evolutionary changes (inter-population variations, clines, Ring species, races), species concept, isolating mechanisms.

UNIT- 7: Extinction **3 hrs**

Mass extinctions (events, causes and effects), Detailed explanation of K-T extinction

UNIT- 8: Origin and Evolution of Man **4 hrs**

Unique hominin characteristics contrasted with primate characteristics, primate phylogeny from *Dryopithecus* leading to *Homo sapiens*, molecular evidences in evolution of modern human.

Practical **(60 hrs)**

(Laboratory periods: 15 classes of 4 hours each)

1. Study of fossils (types, forms and dating) from models/pictures.
2. Study of homology, analogy and homoplasy from suitable specimens.
3. Study different modes of speciation and Adaptive radiation/macroevolution by suitable examples.

4. Study of variations in a sample human population: (a) Continuous variation: Height/Weight in relation to age and sex (b) Discontinuous variation: Ability/Inability to taste Phenylthiocarbamide (PTC).
5. Study of Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium: statement, assumptions, derivation of the equation and its verification by chi square analysis.
6. Demonstration of role of natural selection and genetic drift in changing allelic frequencies using simulation studies.
7. Construction of cladograms based on morphological characters.
8. Introduction and construction of Phylogenetic trees with the help of bioinformatics tools (Clustal X/W, Phylip, MLK/MP/NJ) and its interpretation.

Essential/recommended readings

1. Roberts, A. (2018) Evolution: the human story, Dorling, Kindersley Ltd.
2. Hall, B.K. and Hallgrimson, B. (2013). Evolution. V Edition, Jones and Barlett Publishers.
3. Campbell, N.A. and Reece J.B. (2011). Biology. IX Edition. Pearson, Benjamin, Cummings.
4. Barton N.H., Briggs D.E.G., Eisen J.A., Goldstein D.B. and Patel N.H., (2007) 1st Ed. Evolution, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press.

Suggestive readings

1. Futuyma, Douglas and Mark, Kirkpatrick (2017) 3rd Ed. Evolutionary Biology, Oxford University Press.
2. Zimmer C. and Emlen D. J., (2013) 1stEd. Evolution: Making Sense of Life, Roberts & Co.
3. Pevsner, J. (2009). Bioinformatics and Functional Genomics. II Edition, Wiley Blackwell.
4. Ridley, M. (2004). Evolution. III Edition, Blackwell publishing.

NOTE: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.