DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE COURSE – 9: Genetics and Plant Breeding

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		
Genetics & Plant Breeding **DSC-9**	**4**	**2**	**0**	**2**	Class XII pass	**Nil**

Learning Objectives:

- To apprise students with the basic principles of Genetics
- To enhance the applications of genetics in plant breeding and agriculture.

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of the course the students will be able to:

- understand the fundamentals of Mendelian inheritance and its deviation in gene interactions.
- describe the concepts of linkage and crossing over and their usage in constructing gene maps.
- become familiar with pedigree analysis.
- learn about principles of population genetics
- gain knowledge about gene mutations and inherited disorders
- learn about various plant breeding techniques / methods

Unit 1. Mendelian Genetics **6 hours**

Mendelism: History; Principles of inheritance, deviations (Incomplete dominance and co-dominance); Chromosome theory of inheritance; Multiple allelism; lethal alleles; Epistasis; Pleiotropy; Penetrance and expressivity; Polygenic inheritance; brief introduction to sex determination.

Unit 2. Extra-Nuclear Inheritance **4 hours**

Chloroplast and mitochondrial genomes; Chloroplast Inheritance: Variegation in Four O` clock plant; Mitochondrial inheritance in yeast; Maternal effect (Shell coiling in Snails).

Unit 3. Linkage, crossing over and chromosome mapping **5 hours**

Linkage and crossing over, Cytological basis of crossing over (Creighton and McClintock experiment in Maize); three factor crosses; interference and coincidence; Sex linkage (*Drosophila*)

Unit 4. Variation in Chromosome number and structure **4 hours**

Deletion; Duplication; Inversion; Translocation; Euploidy and aneuploidy (In Brief).

Unit 5. Mutations **4 hours**

Mutation types; Muller's CIB method, Molecular basis of mutations; Chemical mutagens (Base analogs, deaminating, hydroxylating, alkylating and intercalating agents) and Physical mutagens (Ionising and Non ionising radiations); Transposable genetic elements and their significance (Basic concept).

Unit 6. Population and evolutionary genetics **3 hours**

Hardy Weinberg law (Allele frequencies, genotype frequencies); speciation (modes of speciation and genetics of speciation).

Unit 7. Plant Breeding **4 hours**

Plant breeding- Principle and Practices, domestication and plant introduction (primary and secondary introduction), selection and its types: pure line selection, mass selection and clonal selection; hybridizations (inter-specific and intra-specific), heterosis and its significance.

Practicals: **60 hours**

1. To study meiosis in *Allium cepa* through squash preparation of anthers.
2. To study mitosis in *Allium cepa* through squash preparation of root tips.
3. To understand the deviations of Mendelian dihybrid ratios (12:3:1, 9:3:4, 9:7, 15:1, 13:3, 9:6:1) involved using the seed mixture given. Genetic ratio to be calculated using Chi square analysis.
4. Human Genetics:
   a) Study of autosomal & sex-linked dominant & recessive inheritance through pedigree analyses.
   b) ABO blood group testing using kits,
   c) To study the syndromes (Down's, Klinefelter's, Turner's, Edward's & Patau) through karyotypes
5. To calculate allelic and genotypic frequencies of human dominant and recessive traits using Hardy- Weinberg's principle.
6. To study Xeroderma pigmentosum, Sickle cell anaemia, albinism, haemophilia and colour blindness (Ishihara charts may be used to study colour blindness)
7. To study chromosomal aberrations:
   a) Quadrivalents, lagging chromosomes, dicentric/inversion bridge through photographs/permanent slides
   b) Reciprocal translocation through squash preparations of *Rhoeo* anthers.

8. Demonstration of basic methods of plant breeding (hybridizations): Emasculation, bagging and tagging using available plant material in pots/gardens/field.

Suggested Readings:

1. Gardner, E.J., Simmons, M.J., Snustad, D.P. (1991). Principles of Genetics, 8th edition. New Delhi, Delhi: John Wiley & sons.
2. Griffiths, A.J.F., Doebley,J., Peichel, C, Wassarman D (2020). Introduction to Genetic Analysis, 12th edition. New York, NY: W.H. Freeman and Co.
3. Klug, W.S., Cummings, M.R., Spencer, C.A. (2020). Concepts of Genetics, 12th edition. San Francisco, California: Benjamin Cummings.
4. Pierce, B. A. (2020). Genetics: A Conceptual Approach, 7th Edition, Macmillan

5. Campbell, N.A., Reece J.B., Urry L.A., Cain M.L., Wasserman S.A., Minorsky P.V., Jackson, R.B. (2020). Biology. San Francisco, SF: Pearson Benjamin Cummings.
6. Singh, B.D., (2022). Plant Breeding: Principles and Methods. New Delhi, Medtech Publishers

Additional Resources:

1. Russell, P. J. (2010). Genetics- A Molecular Approach. 3rd Edition. Benjamin Cummings
2. Snustad, D.P., Simmons, M.J. (2016). Principles of Genetics, 7th Edition. New Delhi, Delhi: John Wiley & sons
3. Hartl, D.L., Ruvolo, M. (2019). Genetics: Analysis of Genes and Genomes, 9th edition, Jones and Bartlett Learning.
4. Singh, B. D. (2023). Fundamentals of Genetics, 6th edition. MedTech.

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