

Academic Year: ( 2021 / 2022 )

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Department assigned to the subject: Bioengineering and Aerospace Engineering Department

Coordinating teacher: VELASCO BAYON, DIEGO

Type: Electives ECTS Credits : 6.0

Year : 4 Semester :

## REQUIREMENTS (SUBJECTS THAT ARE ASSUMED TO BE KNOWN)

Chemistry  
Physics I  
Cell and Molecular Biology  
Biochemistry  
Materials Science and Engineering  
Anatomy and Physiology I and II  
Introduction to Biomaterials  
Fundamentals of Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine  
It is also recommended to have completed Biomechanics of continuum media I (solids) and Biomechanics of continuum media II (fluids)

## OBJECTIVES

The field of Biomaterials has evolved over approximately the past fifty years from the intersection of multiple viewpoints, including materials science, biology, engineering, and clinical, business, and regulatory perspectives. In addition, the constant evolution of new processes and materials makes the field of Biomaterials very dynamic. In particular, there is an increased need of integrating more complex biological knowledge into the design of improved biomaterials.

Much consideration is given to the design of a biomaterial for a specific application. Certain properties of the biomaterial must be controlled in order to perform the necessary function and to elicit the appropriate response. These properties can be tailored to a specific need by carefully controlling the structural characteristics, modifying the surface properties, and employing biomimetic elements in the biomaterial design. Biomimetic principles are gaining widespread acceptance in the development of biomaterials, especially for drug delivery, regenerative medicine and nanotechnology.

After being introduced to the fundamentals of Biomaterials (Course: Introduction to Biomaterials, 3rd year), students will become familiar with the state of the art technology in biomaterial research in order to solve complex biomedical problems that arise not only at hospitals, but also at universities, research centers and companies.

The student will acquire advanced knowledge to design biomaterials for applications in bioengineering, biotechnology and nanomedicine. Furthermore, the student should acquire a critical ability for the possibilities of these technologies in the near future. Students will be required to acquire understanding and expertise from analysis of primary literature.

## DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

This course is designed to instruct the students in the experimental design of biomaterials for specific applications, including:

Fundamentals of biomaterials science and its application in biomedical engineering design. Selection and functionalization of biomaterials. Biocompatibility of materials. Designing biomaterials to control the transport of drugs and genes. Nanomedicine. Regulatory issues.

Biomaterials are substances that have been designed to direct the course of any therapeutic or diagnostic procedure by controlling interactions with biological systems. A large toolbox of non-biological materials has been engineered to study cell behavior at the cell-material interface. In this course, we will examine how this interface can be leveraged to study cellular systems and generate novel therapeutics. A critical evaluation of the primary research literature will be used to frame

discussions about the interactions between cells and biomaterials. In particular, we will discuss how cell behavior can be altered by controlling biochemical and biophysical cues of substrate materials, how new organs and tissues can be produced by the use of structured scaffolds that direct cells into organized forms, and how specific patterning of materials can enable biological processes to be studied and altered at the single-cell level. We will also consider the applications at patterned cell-material interfaces to build artificial systems, such as organs-on-a-chip, which can be used to perform preclinical tests for the activity and toxicity of drug candidates. Also, we will discuss the combination of non-biological materials with genetic material (DNA and RNA), which can be a robust approach to modifying gene expression at the level of cells, tissues, or organs.

The course includes the following topics:

- Biomaterial selection for tissue engineering
- Nano and biomaterial design: microfabrication, modification and functionalization
- Biosensors
- Biocompatibility of biomaterials: cell-material crosstalk
- Atomic force microscopy for living cells
- Nanotechnology and Targeted drug/protein/gene delivery systems
- Biomaterials for cell, tissue and organ on a chip: lab-on-a-chip devices
- Stem cell niche generation: high throughput technologies
- 3D-Bioprinting technology
- Bioinspired materials for biomedical applications

## LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

The program will be divided into:

- Master classes: lectures focused on biomaterial experimental design and biomedical applications of biomaterials. Some lectures will be given by prestigious professionals in the field.
- Discussion classes (seminars): relevant scientific articles and problems will be presented and discussed by the students and the teaching team.
- Practical sessions in the laboratory: three weeks (15 hours/student). The laboratory sessions will give students a practical overview of biomaterials experimental design and they will need to apply the knowledge acquired during the course to perform the corresponding experiments.

## ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

<b>% end-of-term-examination/test:</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>% of continuous assessment (assignments, laboratory, practicals...):</b>	<b>65</b>

Grading will be based on continuous evaluation and a final exam covering the whole subject, including invited lectures and seminars. Help sessions and tutorial classes will be held prior to the final exam upon students' request. Attendance to lectures and seminars is not compulsory. However, failure to attend any test will result in a mark of 0 in the corresponding continuous evaluation block (see below). The attendance to 80 % of practical sessions is mandatory.

### GRADING:

Total score: 10 points

Continuous evaluation: 6.5 points out of 10

Final exam: 3.5 points out of 10

**CONTINUOUS EVALUATION:** It accounts for up to 65% of the final score of the subject (6.5 points of the TOTAL SCORE), and includes three components:

- 1) One test: 2.5 points of THE TOTAL SCORE. The test will be announced at least one week in advance and it will take place mostly during lectures. If a student pass the continuous evaluation test (minimum score: 5 over 10), topics included in that test will not be included in the final exam. Therefore, all the topics of the course will be included in the final exam when a student does not pass the continuous evaluation test.
- 2) Practical sessions in the laboratory. 2 points of THE TOTAL SCORE. The final exam will include some questions regarding the laboratory sessions.
- 3) Presentation of a "lab-on-a-chip" project: 2 points of THE TOTAL SCORE

**FINAL EXAM:** it will account for the 35 % of the final score (3.5 points of the TOTAL SCORE). The minimum score in the final exam to pass the subject is 4 over 10, notwithstanding the mark obtained in

<b>% end-of-term-examination/test:</b>	35
<b>% of continuous assessment (assignments, laboratory, practicals...):</b>	65

continuous evaluation.

EXTRAORDINARY EXAM: there are two possibilities:

- a) Examination of all the topics of the course (100% extraordinary exam mark)
- b) Examination of the topics included in the continuous evaluation test and/or the final exam when failing any/both of those tests. The weights of those tests will be kept (2.5 or 3.5 points, respectively).

ACADEMIC CONDUCT: Unless specified, all exams will be closed-book, closed-notes, no PC or mobile phone, or anything else other than a writing implement and the exam itself. Plagiarism, cheating or other acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any infractions whatever will result in a failing grade.

#### BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Buddy D. Ratner, Allan S. Hoffman, Frederick J. Schoen and Jack E. Lemons. Biomaterials Science: An Introduction to Materials in Medicine., Academic Press, 2012
- Chee Kai Chua, Wai Yee Yeong Bioprinting: Principles and Applications (Wspc Book Series in 3D Printing), World Scientific Publishing, 2015
- Jason A. Burdick and Robert L. Mauck. Biomaterials for Tissue Engineering Applications: A Review of the Past and Future Trends., Springer Verlag., 2011
- Johnna S. Temenoff and Antonios G. Mikos. Biomaterials: The Intersection of Biology and Materials Science., Prentice Hall, 2009