

Syllabus for the obligatory course:
Journal club 1

Academic year: 2025/2026

Program: Graduate program Biotechnology for the Life Sciences

Course code: BLS102

ECTS points: 3

Language of the course: English

Teaching hours: 28 hours (4 lectures + 24 seminars)

Prerequisite for enrolment: no requirements

Course leader and contact information:

Title and name: Associate Professor Ivana Munitić

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Time period: December 2025 - May 2026

Teachers:

Professor Ivana Munitić (4L+ 18S)

Assistant (6S)

Literature: Recently published original scientific papers.

Course objectives:

Learning outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- critically evaluate original scientific articles and assess the originality and quality of research
- understand the structure of the original scientific research article
- adopt the skill of presenting scientific results
- adopt the skill of searching literature
- acquire the skill of interpreting, arguing and synthesizing scientific results
- suggest ways to solve the experimental question using a scientific method

- adopt basic topics, methods and appropriate scientific terminology of research groups of the Department of Biotechnology in order to be able to choose the area in which they will write a thesis

General competences gained on the course:

A1, A2, A3, A5, A7, B1, B3, B4; C1, C2, C3, C4.

Detailed course content:

Lectures:

P1. Introduction into critical reading of original scientific paper. Structure of scientific articles.

P2. Peer review.

Seminars:

S1. Exemplary journal club -IM.

S2. Joint journal club presentation #1.

S3. Joint journal club presentation #2.

S4. Individual journal club presentation #1

S5. Individual journal club presentation #2

S6. Individual journal club presentation #3

S7. Individual journal club presentation #4

S8. Individual journal club presentation #5

Requirements, methods of assessment and evaluation:

Students are required to attend and actively participate in lectures and seminars.

Qualification and grades (according to Pravilnik o studijima Sveučilišta u Rijeci):

Assessment during the course (70%), based on the average mark for all individual journal clubs.

Final exam - 30 %. The final exam will be written and/or oral, depending on the feasibility of holding live exams.

Eligibility for final exam:

- Students scoring between 0 and 34.9% will not be allowed to approach the final exam
- Students scoring between 35% and 70% will be allowed to approach the final exam

The final exam is taken in writing.

Examination deadlines:

1. The final exam will be on May 5 at 10 am – place will be determined later.

2. The final exam, second round (for those who need to retake the test) will be on May 19 at 10 am; place will be determined later.
3. Additional final exams (maximum two more) will be by arrangement between the students and teacher.

Final grades

The following grades will be awarded based on the final score:

Percentage score	ECTS grade	Numerical grade
90% do 100%	A	Excellent (5)
75% do 89,9%	B	Very good (4)
60% do 74,9%	C	Good (3)
50% do 59,9%	D	Satisfactory (2)
0% do 49,9%	F	Unsatisfactory (1)

The final grade is based on the sum of percentage points accumulated during the course and on the final exam. Passing grades are excellent (5), very good (4), good (3) and satisfactory (2).

To complete the course students must attain a passing mark for the entire course (50% or higher) as well as achieving at least 50% at the final exam.

Additional information:**Academic integrity**

Students are required to respect the principles of academic integrity and refer to the following documents: Ethical rules of the University of Rijeka and Ethical rules for students.

Schedule of classes:

Date	Class type	Topic	Hours	Group	Teacher	Time and place
12.12.2025.	L1	Introduction into critical reading of original scientific paper. Structure of scientific articles.	2	all	Prof. Ivana Munitić	10.00-11.30 O-269
22.12.2025.	L2	Importance of critical thinking in modern science. Peer Review.	2	all	Prof. Ivana Munitić	14.00-15.30 O-269
13.01.2025.	S1	Exemplary JC presentation IM	3	all	Prof. Ivana Munitić	10.00-12.15 O-212
TBD	S2	Joint JC presentation 1	3	all	Prof. Ivana Munitić	TBD

TBD	S3	Joint JC presentation 2	3	all	Assistant	TBD
TBD	S4	Individual JC presentation 1	3	all	Prof. Ivana Munić	TBD
TBD	S5	Individual JC presentation 2	3	all	Prof. Ivana Munić	TBD
TBD	S6	Individual JC presentation 3	3	all	Assistant	TBD
TBD	S7	Individual JC presentation 4	3	all	Prof. Ivana Munić	TBD
TBD	S8	Individual JC presentation 5	3	all	Prof. Ivana Munić	TBD
5.5.2025		Final exam	2	all	Prof. Ivana Munić	10-12 O-212