Description: Plant Breeding

Subject: BIO  
Cat-Nbr: 3307  
Class: 20348  
Term: 1, 2003  
Mode: ONC  
Units: 1.00  
Campus: TWMB A

Academic Group: FOSCI  
Academic Org: FOS002  
HECS Band: 2  
ASCED Code: 010999

STAFFING
Examiner: Grant Daggard  
Moderator: Mark Sutherland

PRE-REQUISITES
Pre-requisite: BIO2207 and BIO2209

RATIONALE
Agriculture is one of Australia's major industries and the Darling Downs region is a centre for several important government and commercial plant breeding organisations. The course is designed to introduce the student to the principles and practice of plant breeding and to associated areas of plant diversity, speciation and taxonomy and the evolution of important crop plants. These principles and practices form an essential part of the training of Plant Biologists.

SYNOPSIS
The course allows students to develop skills in both the theoretical and practical aspects of plant breeding. The course commences with a review of the genetic structure and manipulation of plants. This is followed by a study of the application of modern techniques in molecular biology and genetic engineering to plant breeding. Practical work in the course includes a study of plant breeding strategies, visits to local plant breeding field stations and the isolation of plant genetic material for DNA fingerprinting. During the course, the history and evolution of several major crops is followed to demonstrate the practical application of many theoretical concepts in plant breeding.

OBJECTIVES
On successful completion of this course students will be able to:
• demonstrate basic botanical knowledge of plant variability, taxonomy, speciation and selection;
• demonstrate knowledge of a basic background in the methodology of plant introduction, quarantine, breeding techniques, the generation of variability, and breeding for disease resistance;
• demonstrate knowledge of plant breeders and plant breeding stations;
• demonstrate practical and theoretical skills in the application of molecular biology to plant breeding.

TOPICS

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Brief history of the development of plant breeding and centres of variation.</td>
<td>5.00</td>
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<td>2. Commercial aspects of plant breeding: Cultivar release and plant variety rights; Conservation of plant genetic resources.</td>
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<td>3. Genetic structure of plants: Chromosomal and extra-chromosomal inheritance; Ploidy in plants; Interspecific hybridization</td>
<td>15.00</td>
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<td>4. Genetic variation in plants and its assessment: Qualitative inheritance in plants; Mapping: Isozymes, RFLP's and RAPD's; Quantitative inheritance in plants; Genotype x Environment interaction; Genetic basis of selection theory; Response to selection; Heterosis and inbreeding; Statistical and field techniques in plant breeding.</td>
<td>30.00</td>
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<td>5. Plant breeding strategies: Self-pollinating crops; Cross-pollinating crops; Synthetic varieties.</td>
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<td>6. Plant biotechnology: Plant gene expression; Transgenics; Insect and virus resistance in plants</td>
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TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED:

Books can be ordered by fax or telephone. For costs and further details use the ‘Book Search’ facility at http://bookshop.usq.edu.au by entering the author or title of the text.


REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.


STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY                  HOURS
Examinations             4
Field Trips or
Excursions              9
Laboratory or Practical
Classes                30
Lectures                26
Private Study           97

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks Out of</th>
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<td>PLANT BREEDING SEMINAR</td>
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<td>1HR RESTRICTED TEST</td>
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NOTES:
. Examiner to advise due date for Problem Sets
. Examiner to advise due date of the Plant Breeding Essay.
. Examiner to advise due date for Molecular Marker Prac
. Examiner to advise the date of Plant Breeding Seminar
. Examiner to advise the date of the mid-semester 1hr restricted test.
. Examination dates will be available during the Semester. Please refer to the examination timetable when published.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1 Attendance requirements:
   It is the students' responsibility to attend and participate appropriately in all activities (such as lectures, tutorials, laboratories and practical work) scheduled for them, and to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration. To maximize their chances of
satisfying the objectives of the practical component of the course, students should attend and actively participate in the laboratory sessions in the course.

2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
   To complete each of the assignments satisfactorily, students must obtain at least 50% of the marks available for each assignment. To complete the examination satisfactorily, students must obtain at least 50% of the marks available for the examination.

3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
   If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval then a penalty of 5% of the total marks gained by the student for the assignment will apply for each working day late.

4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
   To be assured of receiving a passing grade a student must submit all of the summative assessment items, achieve at least 50% in the examination and at least 50% of the available weighted marks for the summative assessment items.

5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
   The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the weighted aggregate of the marks (or grades) obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.

6 Examination information:
   In a Restricted Examination, candidates are allowed access to specific materials during the examination. The only materials that candidates may use in the restricted examination for this course are: writing materials (non-electronic and free from material which could give the student an unfair advantage in the examination); calculators which cannot hold textual information (students must indicate on their examination paper the make and model of any calculator(s) they use during the examination. With the Examiner's approval, candidates may, take an appropriate non-electronic translation dictionary (but not technical dictionaries) into the examination. This will be subject to perusal and, if it is found to contain annotations or markings that could give the candidate an unfair advantage, it may be removed from the candidate's possession until the appropriate disciplinary action is completed.

7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
   Any Deferred or Supplementary examinations for this course will be held in the fourth week of the semester following this course offering and the examiner will advise students involved in writing of the date time and location of any such examination.

8 University Regulations:
   Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6. Assessment, and 5.10 Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL http://www.usq.edu.au/SECARIAT/calendar/Part5/ or in the printed version of the current USQ Handbook.
ASSESSMENT NOTES

9 The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the Examiner. Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced within five days if required by the Examiner. In accordance with University's Assignment Extension Policy (Regulation 5.6.1), the examiner of a course may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances.

10 Students who have undertaken all of the required assessments in a course but who have failed to meet some of the specified objectives of a course within the normally prescribed time may be awarded the temporary grade: IM (Incomplete - Make-up). An IM grade will only be awarded when, in the opinion of the examiner, a student will be able to achieve the remaining objectives of the course after a period of non-directed personal study. Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or to sit for an examination at the scheduled time may apply to defer an assessment in a course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be awarded IDS (Incomplete - Deferred Examination); IDM (Incomplete Deferred Make-up); IDB (Incomplete - Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).