**FOOD TOXICOLOGY**

**SUBJECT GUIDE**

**Academic year 2020-2021**

(Date last update: 03/07/2020)
(Date approved in Department Council: 20/07/2020)

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<td>Hygiene, Food Safety and Food Quality Management</td>
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<th>LECTURER(S)</th>
<th>Postal address, telephone n°, e-mail address</th>
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**DEGREE WITHIN WHICH THE SUBJECT IS TAUGHT**

Degree in Human Nutrition and Dietetics

**PREREQUISITES and/or RECOMMENDATIONS (if necessary)**

No requirements

**BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE SUBJECT PROGRAMME (ACCORDING TO THE DEGREE ???)**

- Abiotic pollution: toxic compounds and contaminants present in food.  
- Causes toxicity: origin and prevention.
### GENERAL AND PARTICULAR ABILITIES

**A. General skills**

- Understanding, critically evaluating and knowing how to use and apply information sources related to nutrition, food, lifestyle and health aspects.
- Knowing toxicology of food
- Interpreting reports and administrative records relating to a food product and ingredients.
- Intervening into the food safety and quality of products, facilities and processes
- Acquiring basic training for research activity, being able to formulate hypotheses, collect and interpret information to solve problems using the scientific method and understanding the importance and limitations of scientific thinking on health and nutrition

**B. Specific skills**

- Knowing microbiology, parasitology and toxicology of food
- Scientific and technical advice on food products as well as its development. Assessing compliance with such advice.
- Collaborating on consumer protection in the context of food security

### OBJECTIVES (EXPRESSED IN TERMS OF EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE TEACHING PROGRAMME)

- Knowledge of the fundamentals and basic principles of toxicology.
- Understand the processes and mechanisms affecting food spoilage (chemical pollution) and how it can be prevented.
- Know the legislation related to food safety as it relates to chemical contamination of food.
- Basic knowledge of methodology on the evaluation of toxicity and risk.

### DETAILED SUBJECT SYLLABUS

#### THEORETICAL SYLLABUS:

**I. TOXICOLOGY BASIC OR FUNDAMENTAL**

**Item 1. ORIGINS AND SCOPE OF TOXICOLOGY:** Concept of Toxicology, poisoning and toxic. Historic milestones (1h)

**Item 2. INTRODUCTION TO TOXICOLOGY:** Forms of intoxication. General etiology of poisoning. Subdivisions of Toxicology. Food Toxicology: framework and concept (1h).


**Item 4. TOXICOKINETICS (I):** General: Toxicological Interest of toxicokinetics. Main routes of absorption. Absorption through the digestive tract: Toxicological aspects. (1 h).
Item 5. TOXICOKINETICS (II): Distribution and elimination of toxics. Toxicological concern of distribution and elimination of toxics (1h)

Item 6. TOXICOKINETICS (III): The metabolism as the main determinant of toxicity. Types of metabolic reactions. Factors affecting the biotransformation of toxics. Metabolism-toxicity relationships (1 h).

Item 7. MECHANISM OF ACTION OF TOXICS (I): General. Selective toxicity. Classification. (1 h)

Item 8. MECHANISM OF ACTION OF TOXIC (II): Main mechanisms of toxicity (1 h)

II. EVALUATION OF TOXICITY AND RISKS

Item 9. INTRODUCTION TO THE EVALUATION OF TOXICITY AND RISKS. Concept of evaluation of toxicity and risk assessment. Fundamental principles of toxicity testing. General variables in the toxicological evaluation. Regulations of toxicity evaluation and international agencies involved. Classification of toxicity tests (1 h)

Item 10. TOXICITY TESTS. Providing information, methods and limitations. (2 h)


Item 12. TOXICITY CRITERIA (II). Extrapolation to humans: tolerable limits of exposure and maximum concentration allowed. Calculations and practical application (1 h).

Item 13. INTRODUCTION TO RISK EVALUATION. Methodological issues and policy. Current situation in the European Union. Risk Assessment Methodology (1h)

III. DESCRIPTIVE TOXICOLOGY

Item 14. NATURAL TOXIC SUBSTANCES IN FOODS (I). Main natural toxics that may be present in food. Toxicological significance. Antinutritional agents. Substances with polyvalent activity. (1 h)

Item 15. NATURAL TOXIC SUBSTANCES IN FOODS (II): Alkaloids. Glycosides. Xanthines. (1 h)


Item 17. NATURAL TOXIC SUBSTANCES IN FOODS (IV). Biotoxins of animal origin. (1 h)

Item 18. TECHNOLOGICAL INGREDIENTS (I): Additives. Toxicological and food safety problems. (1 h).


Item 17. CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION OF FOOD. Definition. Origin of pollution. Major chemical contaminants in food. Toxicological problems arising from chemical contamination. (1 h)


Item 23. TOXICS PRODUCED DURING FOOD PROCESSING (I): Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Food contamination and toxic effects. (1 h)

Item 24. TOXICS PRODUCED DURING FOOD PROCESSING (II): Heterocyclic amines. Compounds derived from the oxidation of fats and oils. Food contamination and toxic effects. (1 h)

Item 25. TOXICS PRODUCED DURING FOOD PROCESSING (III): Compounds derived from the Maillard reaction: Premelanoidins and melanoidins. Acrylamide. Food contamination and toxic effects. (1 h)

Item 26. OTHER TOXICS PRODUCED DURING FOOD PROCESSING (IV): Furan. 3-MCPD. Food contamination and toxic effects. (1 h)

Item 27. PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPs). Dioxins. Furans. PCBs. Origin of pollution. Toxicological problems. (1 h)

Item 28. MATERIALS IN CONTACT WITH FOOD: Wood, glass, ceramics, elastomers and polymeric material, metal packaging. Food contamination and toxic effects (1 h)

Item 29. TOXICITY OF PESTICIDE RESIDUES (I). Pesticide residues in food. Classification. Mechanism of action and major toxic effects (1 h)

Item 30. TOXICITY OF PESTICIDE RESIDUES (II). Pesticide residues in food. Classification. Mechanism of action and major toxic effects (1 h)

Item 31. METAL TOXICITY (I): Causes of food contamination by metals. Lead. Food contamination. Mechanism of action and major toxic effects. (1 h)

Item 32. METAL TOXICITY (II): Cadmium and mercury. Food contamination. Mechanism of action and major toxic effects (1 h)

Item 33. METAL TOXICITY (III): Arsenic, tin and aluminum. Food contamination. Mechanism of action and major toxic effects (1 h)

Item 34. DRUG RESIDUES IN FOODS (I). Concept of residue. Origin of drug residues in food. Types of drugs used. Problems posed by the residues. Suspension or withdrawal time (1 h)

Item 35. DRUG RESIDUES IN FOOD (II). Toxicological significance of drug residues in food. The short and long-term effects (1 h).

PRACTICAL SYLLABUS:

Seminars/ Practice
1) BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES IN FOOD TOXICOLOGY. Major databases in Food Toxicology. Making practical cases.

2) SYSTEMATIC analytical in food toxicology. Types and sample preparation in the analysis of toxic substances in food. Extraction of toxic food samples. Analytical techniques.

3) TOXICITY EVALUATION AND RISKS. Resolution of practical cases.

KEY REFERENCES:


FURTHER READING:

TOXICOLOGÍA AVANZADA. Repetto M.. Díaz de Santos, Madrid, 1995


RECOMMENDED INTERNET LINKS

Basic Toxicology.
http://www.ugr.es/~ajerez/project

Laboratory Practice:
http://www.ugr.es/~fgil/project/index.php
Regulation about notification of new substances and classification, packaging and labeling of dangerous substances. 30.06.1998 OM. Annex B.
http://www.consumo-inc.es/Seguridad/normativa/363_95/home.htm

Spanish Food Safety Agency (AECOSAN)
http://www.aesan.msc.es/AECOSAN

Codex Alimentarius (FAO / WHO)
http://www.codexalimentarius.net

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)
http://www.efsa.europa.eu

OECD (www.oecd.org / document)

European Chemicals Bureau (http://ecb.jrc.it/testing-methods)