

Course name: Basics of mycology (USOS Code: B-BW.2001Eng)

ECTS: 2

No. of hours: 30 (10 lectures + 20 classes)

Course coordinator: Dr Urszula Świdarska

Prerequisites: -

Course description: The aim of the course is to introduce the student to the basic issues in the field of mycology, i.e. the science of fungi. During the course, the student learns the diversity and basic life processes of fungi, their anatomical structures, morphological and habitat diversity, trophic forms and methods of reproduction, their systematic position. The course shows the student the threats posed by this group of organisms and the role they play in the natural environment and the human economy, especially in the medical context.

During the lectures, characteristics of the basic taxonomical group, i.e. the most important features of structure (vegetative and generative), types of reproduction and the ways of dispersal are discussed. In addition, the importance of fungi in human life and economy and their use in medicine and biotechnology are presented.

Macro- and microscopic observations are carried out during laboratory classes. They are helpful for identification of symptoms of plant diseases caused by fungi.

Recommended literature: (1) Alexopoulos C.J. 1952. Introductory Mycology. John Wiley & Sons, New York; (2) Deacon J. 2006. Fungal biology. 4th edition, Blackwell Publishing; (3) Ingold C.T. 1961. The Biology of Fungi, Hutchinson Educational; (4) Moore D., Robson G.D., Trinci A.P.J. 2011. 21st Century Guidebook to Fungi, Cambridge University Press, New York; (5) Scripts of classes prepared by the teacher.