



## *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

### *Syllabus*

## ***VIRUSES AS PLANT PATHOGENS - 71117***

*Last update 08-09-2024*

*HU Credits:* 2

*Degree/Cycle:* 2nd degree (Master)

*Responsible Department:* Agroecology & Plant Health

*Academic year:* 0

*Semester:* 2nd Semester

*Teaching Languages:* English

*Campus:* Rehovot

*Course/Module Coordinator:* Prof Moshe Lapidot

*Coordinator Email:* [lapidotm@volcani.agri.gov.il](mailto:lapidotm@volcani.agri.gov.il)

*Coordinator Office Hours:* By appointment

*Teaching Staff:*

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Dr. Moshe Lapidot

Course/Module description:

The course is aimed at understanding the interactions between a plant pathogen – a virus – and its plant host. How viruses are able to infect plants, despite their very small genomes and the few proteins the viruses code for. We will discuss the different strategies viruses use in order to overcome the plants defenses, and how to deal with viral diseases.

Course/Module aims:

The aim of the course is to understand the intricate interactions between a virus and its host, and how to cope with plant viruses.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

Identify different plant viruses, define viral families, distinguish between different modes of transmission, manage viral diseases.

Attendance requirements(%):

90%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Frontal teaching.

Course/Module Content:

1. Introduction to plant virology, history at a glance, taxonomy, Koch's postulates.
2. Viral "life" cycle, basic viral components, entry to the cell and disassembly.
3. Viral replication and expression strategies-how viruses transcribe and translate a number of proteins from a small genome without introns and exons.
  - A. Plus RNA viruses
  - B. Minus RNA viruses
  - C. DNA viruses
4. Viral movement: Cell-to-cell and long distance movement.
5. Assembly of virions.
6. Viral transmission from plant to plant.

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7. *Viral-insect interactions – potyviruses and aphids, begomoviruses and whiteflies, tospoviruses and thrips.*

8. *Other “creatures”- viroids and satellites.*

9. *Viral diagnostics.*

10. *Management of viral diseases.*

11. *Genetic resistance to viruses – definition of resistance, tolerance, breeding for resistance. TYLCV as a model for “complex” resistance.*

12. *Cross protection*

13. *Transgenic resistance*

14. *Viral synergism.*

Required Reading:

*None*

Additional Reading Material:

*Matthew’s Plant Virology  
by Roger Hull*

Grading Scheme:

*Written / Oral / Practical Exam 100 %*

Additional information:

*At the end of this course there will be a final exam. If, due to COVID-19, exams on campus will be impossible, a written essay will replace the final exam.*