



BSC 1411

BOTANY: SYLLABUS

FALL 2024

INSTRUCTOR: Harshitha Jampala
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Course Website: at MyLeo Online/D2L
Office Hours: T/TH 03:30 PM – 04:30 PM
Preferred Form of Communication: Through Email
Communication Response Time: 1 Day

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Stern's Introductory Plant Biology, 15th Ed. 2020. ISBN13: 9781260240832

You may purchase (or rent) your textbook from any location and in any form (hardbound, paperbound, eText), but be sure you have ready access to the correct edition. A link to the publisher's website (you may save money buying direct):

<https://www.mheducation.com/highered/product/stern-s-introductory-plant-biology-bidlack-jansky/M9781260240832.html>

There is no pre-printed laboratory manual for this course; materials will be available in the lab and via your MyLeo Online Lab section page.

COURSE MEETING TIME/PLACE: T,TH 09:45AM –11:00 AM, Room - 2038/2040

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed for students majoring in Agricultural Science, Plant and Soil Science, Wildlife and Conservation Science, and Environmental Science. Students are introduced to the structure and function of plants as well as their diversity and ecology. Topics covered include plant cellular and gross anatomy, plant physiology and biochemistry, genetics, evolution, classification, and biogeography. This course is designed to complement *BSC1413 General Zoology* with a minimum of overlap but does include enough Genetics and other basics to understanding biology as needed.

Semester Hours: Four Lecture Lab/ Clock Hours (3 lecture, 2 lab)

LABORATORY: You **must** be enrolled in a BSc1411 laboratory section to receive credit for the course. The laboratory will account for **25%** of your final grade. ***The laboratory sessions will begin the THIRD week of classes.*** You will receive a complete schedule, syllabus, and further instructions from your Lab Instructor at the first meeting, and each section will have its own D2L page as well as a central folder at the main course page. All labs meet in Lab room. See the Schedule of Classes for this semester for available lab meeting times

<http://www.tamuc.edu/schedule/>

MATERIAL: This course is intended as a foundation-building course for several practical sciences, including students of Wildlife & Conservation, Animal Sciences, Plant & Soil Sciences, Environmental Sciences, etc. You are expected to read all textbook chapters corresponding to topics covered in lecture, and you are expected to allot adequate time to *regularly* studying the material on your own. It is also strongly recommended that you read the preface of the textbook, with hints on how to best use it. We may not use every chapter of the textbook in lecture, and we may discuss some aspects in more detail than your text goes into- so be sure to keep up with

lecture notes too! If you miss a lecture, you are still responsible for that day's material- read the chapter, get notes from someone in class, review power points (posted at D2L), and see me for any clarification. If you have difficulty with the material, feel free to see me *as soon as you can* for advice on how best to improve.

OUTCOMES & ASSESSMENTS: With successful completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate understanding of the following concepts, explanation, and use of these ideas in examinations and laboratory exercises:

- Fundamental concepts of biology (with emphasis on plant systems), including aspects of cellular and molecular function as well as genetics and evolution.
- Biodiversity and structure/function of organisms traditionally covered in botany courses- vascular and nonvascular plants, fungi, and photosynthetic protists and algae.
- Fundamental aspects of plant ecology and conservation.

In addition, students will communicate ideas and concepts developed in the course through written and multimedia presentations.

CORE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Students will be able to discern between relevant and irrelevant information, recognize bias in source material, and critically examine a diversity of source material.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to synthesize a cogent body of knowledge from various sources of information, acknowledge the contributions/insights of others, and make independent judgments.
- Student communication will be clear, purposeful, and make appropriate use of evidence, data and technology as applicable.
- Students will be able to interpret, test and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data.
- Students will be able to work together toward a shared purpose relevant to the course or discipline with a sense of shared responsibility for meeting that purpose.

EXAMS AND GRADING: Exams will be a mixture of objective, short-answer, and short-essay questions drawn from lectures and assigned readings from the book and occasional hand-outs or websites. You are expected to read all assigned text, preferably including a preview of the material before class to facilitate questions and discussion. **There are NO drop grades for exams**, so take each exam seriously!

Grades will be computed based on a "10-point scale" such that a total of 90% or higher of possible points will result in a grade of A, between 80% and 89.9% a B, and so on. If your total is lower than 60% of the class points you will fail the class (yes, that's an F). The points are planned to be as follows:

3 exams (100 pts. each)	300
1 Final exam	100
Paper	100
Quizzes, etc.	100
<i>Laboratory*</i>	<u>200</u>
<i>Total course grade</i>	800

This means that you must earn at least 720 total points (800 x .9) for an A, 640 (800 x .8) for a B, 560 (800 x .7) for a C, and 480 (800 x .6) for a D in the class. Below 480 points is a Failing grade.

***Note** that lecture counts for 75% of the total course points, while lab counts for the other 25%.

Exam Procedure: You may have assigned seating for exams (not quizzes!). Students are responsible for supplying their own Scantron cards (F 882-E, narrow green, 50 questions per side), and should bring pencils (#2/HB lead) and a *good* eraser. You may NOT have bags, notes, hats or hoods, sunglasses, headphones, cell phones, etc. with you during exams- all such other items must be left in the front of the classroom, with electronics turned off/silenced and stored. Any student caught cheating on an exam will receive a zero for that exam.

Writing assignments will be detailed in separate handouts. “Quizzes, etc.” includes points from any quizzes given, attendance/participation credit, D2L online assignments, or anything else that crops up. Quizzes do NOT require Scantrons. Studying together can be highly beneficial, but exams and turned-in assignments must be done individually. Cheating, plagiarism, and disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

MAKE- UP WORK: In the case of a missed exam, with presentation of a valid and documented excuse you may arrange for a make-up exam. Such make-ups MUST be scheduled with **me** within 7 days of the missed test (if you are not in town, have a friend do it), and will be mainly short answer or essay in nature. Lack of such arrangements will result in a score of **0** for that test, and only ONE exam may be made up in this fashion. Such make-up exams will be given during finals week ONLY. Extreme circumstances will always be taken into consideration- SEE ME before you assume anything.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is generally mandatory for this level course, and a seating chart may be used for ease of recording attendance. Repeated unexcused absences or disruptive behavior such as talking during lecture or repeated tardiness will negatively affect grades (especially if borderline); similarly good attendance and behavior will be rewarded via attendance/participation credit. Missing 20% or more of lecture (unexcused absences) is grounds to receive a grade of F for the course. Note that Labs have similar policies, and failing lab will virtually assure failing the course. Of course, these policies may be adjusted as needed for health and safety.

Week	Start Date (M)	Topic	Other Notes
1	A 27	Ch. 1 Introduction to Plant Life	
2	S 03	Ch. 2-3 Chemistry & Cells	
3	10	Ch. 3-4 Cells & Tissues	
4	17	Ch. 5-6 Roots & Stems	
5	24	Ch. 7 Leaves	<i>Exam 1</i>
6	O 01	Ch. 8 Flowers & Fruits	
7	08	Ch. 9 Water & Transport	<i>Fall Break Oct. 10-14</i>
8	15	Ch. 10-11 Metabolism & Growth	
9	22	Ch. 12 Meiosis	
10	29	Ch. 16 Classification	<i>Exam 2</i>
11	N 05	Ch. 18-19 Algae & Fungi	
6	12	Ch. 20-22 Bryophytes, Seedless Vascular Plants & Gymnosperms	
7	14	Ch. 23 Angiosperms	
8	21	Ch. 24-26 Ecology & Humans	<i>Thanksgiving Holidays Nov 25-29</i>
9	D 03	Review	<i>Exam 3</i>
10	10	Final Exam: TBA	

This schedule is a general outline for your reference and is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class and at the course website(s); you will be responsible for keeping up with them. Actual exam dates will be announced a minimum of one week in advance.

Final Exams are assigned to dates by the University (see <http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/academicCalendars/final-exam-schedule.aspx>)

RESOURCES: There are a variety of resources at your disposal to aid with your studies. This lecture is “Web Enhanced”- it has MyLeo Online (D2L) site that you will be expected to use regularly. There are also a wide variety of study aids available at most text’s websites- check your textbook’s introductory pages for links and other such information.

You may also find useful the **Academic Success Center** services, which include tutoring and workshops (including such topics as “Managing Test Anxiety”):

<http://www.tamuc.edu/CampusLife/CampusServices/AcademicSuccessCenter/default.aspx>

Try out these features early, while they have time to help you!

And of course the Academic Calendar, which does include information regarding University holidays, deadlines to add, drop, withdraw, and other such activities. This page also includes the link to each semester’s Final Exam schedule (which may also be useful for your other courses): <http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/academicCalendars/final-exam-schedule.aspx>

Additionally, you may find the following *Biology websites* useful:

- Cells Alive! <http://www.cellsalive.com/>
- The Biology Project <http://www.biology.arizona.edu/>
- Online Biology Book
<http://www.emc.maricopa.edu/faculty/farabee/BIOBK/BioBookTOC.html>
- The Tree of Life Project <http://tolweb.org/tree/>

OTHER NOTES (INCLUDING OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS/AKA: THE FINE PRINT)

It is the responsibility of the student to inform me of any problems you may have affecting your performance in class, be it due to professionally diagnosed disability, personal or work-related problems, or anything else that comes up, so that appropriate adjustments can be made.

EARLY INTERVENTION FOR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS:

Early intervention for freshmen is designed to communicate the University’s interest in their success and a willingness to participate fully to help students accomplish their academic objectives. The university through faculty advisors and mentors will assist students who may be experiencing difficulty to focus on improvement and course completion. This process will allow students to be knowledgeable about their academic progress early in the semester and will provide faculty and staff with useful data for assisting students and enhancing retention. Grade reports will be mailed by the end of the sixth week of the semester.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

AI use in courses

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesprocedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesprocedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#). <http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

“Plagiarism is a criminal activity. You must cite all sources of information. Unreferenced copying of material, whether parts of sentences, whole sentences, paragraphs or entire articles, will result in a score of zero for your essay and can result in further disciplinary action.” Note that this is true throughout the University and we do have plagiarism-detecting software in place. Of special note in an online environment- “cut and paste” from websites without appropriate citation IS plagiarism, yet putting everything in quotation marks is not an acceptable alternative. You must learn to construct your own sentences with information you find (and changing a couple of words in a sentence or reordering sentences in a paragraph are not enough). If you have any questions about what is considered plagiarism or wish advice on avoiding it, please contact your instructor.

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Waters Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

Counseling Services Statement

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

FINAL NOTE:

I make efforts to conserve resources in providing materials for class. All materials provided in class are to be found at the D2L website. I will not provide hard-copy handouts of anything that you can access there- you may print what you need, when you need it; or just download a copy to have handy. Clearly computer access is assumed of all students. If you do not have one of your own (or your online access is limited), there are computer labs available all-around campus- Waters Library most notably, and more locally Science building room 210.

There are even kiosks for checking out a laptop. You may need to provide your own paper for printing or pay a charge. Also, places like Staples and Office Depot will print materials for a reasonable fee if you bring your flash-drive. Last bit of advice: **Get a Calendar. Learn how to use it.** ☺