

Revised 08/24/2025



EAST TEXAS A&M
— UNIVERSITY —

BSC1411, Sections 8WE and 8BE, Botany Lecture

COURSE SYLLABUS FOR FALL 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. John F. Evers

Office Location: 8750 N Central Expy, Suite 1900, Box 30, Dallas, TX 75231, 20th Floor (Dallas Campus)

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30 pm-3:30 pm

Office Phone: (903) 886-5525

Office Fax: N/A

University Email Address: John.Evers@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: University E-mail or MyLeo Online

Communication Response Time: Within 24 hours on weekdays. Longer response times may occur on weekends, so it is best to communicate issues during the weekdays.

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Materials

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, etc.). Be sure you have access to the correct edition. Earlier editions will still have much of the same information, but some information may be out of date, and the layout of chapters may differ from how the chapters are covered in class. 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. You are expected to print off and bring the lab procedures and worksheets to class each day for lab. **A computer or tablet with internet access is also needed.**

The syllabus and schedule are subject to change.

Course Description

Student Learning Outcomes: 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:

1. Fundamental concepts of biology (with emphasis on plant systems), including aspects of cellular and molecular function as well as genetics and evolution.
2. Biodiversity and structure/function of organisms traditionally covered in botany courses- vascular and nonvascular plants, fungi, and photosynthetic protists and algae.
3. Fundamental aspects of plant ecology and conservation.
4. In addition, students will communicate ideas and concepts developed in the course through written and multimedia presentations.

Core Learning Objectives

1. Students will be able to discern between relevant and irrelevant information, recognize bias in source material, and critically examine a diversity of source material.
2. Students will be able to discern between relevant and irrelevant information, recognize bias in source material, and critically examine a diversity of source material.
3. Student communication will be clear, purposeful, and will make appropriate use of evidence, data, and technology as applicable.
4. Students will be able to interpret, test, and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data.
5. 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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Computer Access: Students will need access to either a personal computer, tablet, or the computer labs. Ask the front desk for the locations of any student computer labs.

Calculators: You may need calculators on some of the exams and essays. Be sure to bring an instructor-approved calculator to class and become familiar with its use. Make sure your calculator has fresh batteries.

D2L: You will need to be familiar with navigating the D2L platform. Ask your instructor if you are unsure how to use D2L.

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Word, PowerPoint, and PDF Files: You will need to be familiar with making Microsoft Word and PowerPoint documents. You should also be familiar with using Adobe applications and viewing PDF files.

Instructional Methods

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory for both lecture and lab. A seating chart may be used. Attendance will be taken every day for lab and lecture. Repeated absences are correlated with reduced grade performance. Disruptive behavior in class will not be tolerated. Missing 20% or more of the 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.

Seating: You will have assigned seating for exams, but not for quizzes.

Scantrons: You will be responsible for your own scantrons on exams. Quizzes will not have scantrons. We will be using F 882-E narrow green scantrons with 50 questions on each side.

Free-Response Questions: Paper for free-response questions will be provided separately. Ensure that your answers are legible and that any drawings are sufficiently detailed and labeled so that the instructor can clearly understand what you drew.

Materials for Exams and Quizzes: Students will need to bring their own pencils, erasers, and calculators. Phones and tablets are not calculators and are not permitted for use on exams and quizzes.

Items Not Permitted: During exams and quizzes, no electronics other than calculators are allowed. Additionally, no food, drinks, books, notes, hats, sunglasses, or backpacks are permitted on the exam. Backpacks will need to be put at the front of the class during exams. Items left out such as cell phones will be taken by the instructor for the duration of the exam or quiz if left out. Having books, notes, or electronics out is considered cheating and could result in a zero for the exam or quiz.

Groups for Quizzes: Exams and quizzes are taken individually and are not done in groups. Taking an exam or quiz in a group is considered cheating and results in a zero for the grade.

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

Cheating and Academic Dishonesty: Any student caught with notes, books, electronics, etc. that should not be out during exams or quizzes may receive a zero for the exam or quiz. Anyone working in groups will also receive zeros for the assessment.

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Looking at other students' papers is also considered cheating and may result in a zero for the assessment. If answers to free-response questions are sufficiently similar to your neighbor's, this may also result in a zero for the assessment. Possible additional disciplinary action may occur depending on the instance, including expulsion from the class.

Make-Up Work: If you miss any exams, quizzes, or other in-class assignments, valid proof of absence must be provided and the absence excused by the university before the assessment can be made up. Valid proof of absence includes doctor's notes or other official paperwork. Note that for any online assessments, technical difficulties may not be accepted as a valid reason for make-up of the assessment if you had sufficient time to complete the assessment. If you miss an assessment, you must let me know within 7 days for the assessment to be made up. Note that only one exam will be made up during the semester and will be done at the end of the semester. The make-up exam will be either a short answer or an oral exam.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Notes on Attendance: Attendance is mandatory for this class and is for a grade. Students who miss class usually receive lower grades due to missed lectures and labs. Participate in all lectures and lab activities.

Turning Assignments in on Time: Assignments must be turned in on time. Late work is not accepted. Be sure to turn in assignments on time.

Studying: Do not wait until the last minute to study. Make sure you get sufficient rest before exams and quizzes. Study at least a week in advance for exams. Make flashcards for key terms. Practice drawing examples of plant anatomy and physiology. Take handwritten notes each day in class. Take good lab notes. Study all the lecture and lab notes from the slides and the textbook. Use the textbook practice questions and any practice questions in D2L that are provided.

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.

Other Notes: 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

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limited), there are computer labs available (ask the front desk if you are unsure where the computer labs are). 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.**

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%
B = 80%-89%
C = 70%-79%
D = 60%-69%
F = 59% or Below

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

A = 451- 500 Points
B = 401- 450 Points
C = 351- 400 Points
D = 301- 350 Points
F = 300 & > Points

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

Grading Weights:

Attendance	5%
Quizzes (5)	20%
Research Paper	10%
Exams (3)	40%
Lab*	25%
TOTAL	100%

Assessments

Exams (including Final): Exams will be multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, and short-answer questions. Some questions may require you to draw diagrams. Exams will cover chapters discussed in class, and questions may come from the textbook, lectures, activities, lab, as well as other outside of class assignments, such as any videos. Reviews will be provided for exams online. Do not expect review time in lecture or lab. An in-class review may be provided for the final exam if time permits. You are

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responsible for studying all of the exam materials and knowing the exam dates. **Note that no exam grades will be dropped. Do not expect extra credit on the exams.**

Student Research Paper: Students will be assigned an individual research paper to complete. **Note that this is an individual grade and not a group project.** You will choose a plant species of your choice that is important to humans, such as corn (*Zea mays*) and research the evolution, ecology, human uses and cultural significance, and conservation threats to the plant (or to specific varieties of that species). Reports should be 2-3 pages long, include figures of any important statistics, plant anatomy, etc., and have sources properly cited (figures included).

Note on Research Paper: Your paper is an individual project. Any papers that look similar to each other or show evidence of plagiarism from sources online, in books, etc. will receive a zero and further disciplinary action may occur, such as expulsion from the class.

Quizzes: There will be 5 quizzes held in class this fall semester. Each quiz will be worth 10 points. Quizzes will be a mix of multiple choice, free response, fill-in-the-blank, and occasionally short-answer questions. This may include drawing plant anatomy. Quizzes will be taken towards the end of lectures, and you will have 20 minutes to complete the quizzes. The last quiz (Quiz 5) will be a take-home quiz due the week of Dec. 1st. The lowest quiz score will be dropped at the end of the semester. There will be no extra credit on any of the quizzes.

Lecture Attendance and Participation: Students are expected to be present for all lectures and participate in class discussions and activities, which will be taken for a grade each time the class meets.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.etamu.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

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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@etamu.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>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

It is the responsibility of the student to inform your instructor of any problems you may have affecting your performance in class. This may be due to professionally diagnosed disability, personal or work-related problems, or anything else that comes up. In such cases, the appropriate adjustments can be made, provided they fall under university policy, such as disability accommodations. Please contact your instructor if any issues arise or you need more information or suggestions for studying.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

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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.

<https://inside.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

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>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedures 13.99.99.R0.01](#)

<http://www.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University 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](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

Graduate Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.etamu.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

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

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website: [Student Disability Services](#)

<https://www.etamu.edu/student-disability-services/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M 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.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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.etamu.edu/counsel

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or

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webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>

AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]

East Texas A&M University 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

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

COURSE CALENDAR

Week	Week Start Date (Start Date is Monday, Aug. 25th)	Chapter/Unit	Assessments
1	Aug. 25 th	Ch. 1 Introduction to Plant Life	
2	Sept. 2 nd	Ch. 2-3 Chemistry and Cells	
3	Sept. 8 th	Ch. 3-4 Cells and Tissues	Quiz 1 (Ch. 1-4)
4	Sept 15 th	Ch. 5-6 Roots and Stems	
5	Sept. 22 nd	Ch. 7 Leaves	Exam 1 (Ch. 1-7)

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Week	Week Start Date (Start Date is Monday, Aug. 25th)	Chapter/Unit	Assessments
6	Sept. 29 th	Ch. 8 Flowers and Fruits	
7	Oct. 6 th	Ch. 9 Water and Transport	Quiz 2 (Ch. 5-9), Fall Break Oct. 9 th -10 th
8	Oct. 13 th	Ch. 10-11 Metabolism and Growth	
9	Oct. 20 th	Ch. 12 Meiosis	
10	Oct. 27 th	Ch. 16 Classification	Quiz 3 (Ch. 10-12 and 16), Exam 2 (Ch. 7-12 and 16)
11	Nov. 3 rd	Ch. 18-19 Algae and Fungi	Research Paper Due
12	Nov. 10 th	Ch. 20-22 Bryophytes, Seedless Vascular Plants and Gymnosperms	Quiz 4 (Ch. 18-22)
13	Nov. 17 th	Ch. 23 Angiosperms	
14	Nov 24 th	Ch. 24-26 Ecology & Humans	Thanksgiving Break Nov. 24 th to 28 th , Take-home quiz 5 (Ch. 23-26) due week of Dec. 1st
15	Dec. 1 st	Final Exam Review	Exam 3 (Ch. 20-26)
16	Dec. 8 th	Final Exam (Exact time TBA)	Final Exam

Meeting Days: Class will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:15 am to 12:30 pm. **Lecture is a face-to-face class, and attendance is mandatory.**

Note: Schedule is subject to change if needed due to events such as inclement weather or other events.

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