

Revised 08/24/2025



EAST TEXAS A&M
— UNIVERSITY —

BSC1411, Sections 8TE, 8IE, and 8DE, Botany Lab

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

Text: None. The lab manual and other materials will be provided in class and posted at D2L.

Course Description: This lab is conducted in conjunction with lecture and is designed to illustrate and augment the topics covered in the lecture portion. These subjects include the plant cell, anatomy, morphology, plant physiology, plant biochemistry, genetics, evolution, classification, and ecology.

Computers: 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.

Microscope Use: Students must be familiar with the use of both a stereomicroscope and a compound light microscope. Proper use will be reviewed in the lab.

Other Laboratory Equipment: In each unit, various types of laboratory equipment, such as spectrophotometers, may be utilized. Students will be shown in the lab how to use the equipment properly, but are expected to pay attention and become proficient in handling all laboratory equipment after learning the proper steps.

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 lab (unexcused absences) is grounds to receive a grade of F for the course. Lab attendance is mandatory. Please let me know if you will be missing the lab and provide any necessary documentation to excuse your absence. Excused absences will not count against your grade. You are responsible for making up any notes and assignments passed out during the lab you missed.

Lab Notebook: Students must bring a spiral or other notebook for keeping data and notes on lab write-ups. This will be part of the grading.

Seating: You will have assigned seating for exams.

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: 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, 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 if left out. Having books, notes, or electronics out is considered cheating and could result in a zero for the exam or quiz.

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Groups for Exams: Exams 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. 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, lab activities, 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

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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 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:

Lab Participation	10%
Weekly Work	30%
Lab reports	30%
Presentation	10%
Exams (2)	20%
TOTAL	100%

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Assessments

Lab Participation: This portion of your grade will be based on lab attendance, completing the labs, maintaining a proper lab notebook, and completing any weekly questions, working with your lab group, cleaning up after experiments, etc. At the end of the semester, the lowest weekly participation grade will be dropped.

Weekly Graded Work (Including Quizzes): This includes any worksheets and quizzes not part of the weekly participation grade. Quizzes will be at the start of the lab period. Quizzes are individual and not group assignments. At the end of the semester, the lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Exercises: Any exercises will be posted in D2L and will be due within one week. These will be done outside of the lab. The exercises are due at the start of lab.

Lab Reports: There will be several written assignments, culminating in at least one complete lab report. Specific instructions will be provided for these and posted on D2L. Students are expected to compose their own unique lab reports individually. Any assignments exhibiting evidence of plagiarism will receive a grade of zero and are subject to further disciplinary action. All lab reports must be typed and utilize correct grammar and spelling. Failure to comply with this will result in points deducted from the assignment. Incomplete lab reports will receive a grade of zero. Further instructions for these assignments will be given in class.

Presentation: Groups will give at least one presentation on an ecology topic during the semester and present their findings to the class.

Exams: There will be a final and a midterm exam. **If you must be absent on exam day for an excused reason, you must let the instructor know prior to exam time, and only one exam can be made up at most.**

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

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Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

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

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.

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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.

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>

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

Website: [Student Disability Services](http://www.etamu.edu/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.

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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 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

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COURSE CALENDAR

Lab	Week Start Date	Topic	Assignments
1	Aug. 25 th	Introduction and safety training	
2	Sept. 2 nd	Safety Training, Microscopes, Cells	
3	Sept. 8 th	Cell division & Plant tissues	Quiz 1 (Labs 1 and 2)
4	Sept. 15 th	Leaves, roots, and stems/Vegetative Propagation	
5	Sept. 22 nd	Seeds & Germination	Quiz 2 (Labs 3 and 4)
6	Sept. 29 th	Fruits & Flowers	
7	Oct. 6 th	Field Lab/Greenhouse*	Quiz 3 (Labs 5 and 6)
Lab	Week Start Date	Topic	Assignments
8	Oct. 13 th	Photosynthesis & Transport and Midterm Exam	Midterm Exam (Labs 1-7)
9	Oct. 20 th	Algae & Fungi	Quiz 4 (Labs 7 and 8)
11	Oct. 27 th	No Labs - Holiday	
12	Nov. 3 rd	Seedless Plants	
13	Nov. 10 th	Seed Plants	Quiz 5 (Labs 9 and 10)
14	Nov. 17 th	Ecology/Ethnobotany	Quiz 6 (Labs 11 and 12)
15	Nov. 24 th	Thanksgiving Holiday- No Lab	
16	Dec. 1 st	Final Exam/Presentations	Final Exam and Presentations Due
17	Dec. 8 th	Finals Week – No Labs	

Meeting Days: Class will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:45 am-11 am and from 1 pm-2:15 pm. **Lab 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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