Revised 06/12/2025

EAST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

BSC 1411 – 8AE/9TE – BOTANY

COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Christian A. Browne
Office Location: 8750 N Central Expy, Dallas, TX 75231
Office Hours: M/W 1 – 2 pm
Office Phone: 214-954-3600
University Email Address: Christian.Browne@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication**: Email**
Communication Response Time: I respond to email within 48 hours, Monday through Friday. Any attempts to contact me over the weekend will receive a prompt response upon the following business day.

COURSE INFORMATION

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 Earlier editions will still have much of the same information, but some information may be out of date, and the layout of chapters may differ from how the chapters are covered in class.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.

Course Description

Summary: 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 understand biology as needed.

Student Learning Outcomes

Summary: With successful competition 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 for BSC1411

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 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.
3. Student communication will be clear, purposeful, and 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

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Regular weekly studying and fully reading the textbook, lecture slides, notes, reviews, and other materials provided on MyLeo for the class ae critical for success in this class. Reading the preface of the textbook will help you understand key aspects of the book's layout and available resources that can aid your study, such as practice questions. Note that not all chapters may be used in the textbook, and even if a chapter is used, only certain sections may be used. Make notes and drawings using pen and paper or a tablet. Some items discussed in lecture, such as examples or exercises, may be on quizzes and exams but not present in the textbook. Any missed quizzes and exams you are responsible for making up. You can come to office hours or e-mail any questions.

GRADING

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

Assessment	Points	Weight
Discussions	200	20%
10 Quizzes (10 points each)	100	10%
Student Research Project	100	10%
Lab Activities	200	25%
4 Exams (100 points each)	400	50%
Total Points Possible	1000	100%

Lab Activities	
Assessment	**Percentage of Lab Grade**
Weekly Participation (Completion, Attendance, etc)	10%
Weekly Graded Work (Worksheets, Quizzes, etc.)	30%
Lab Reports (Including preliminary parts)	30%
Presentations (Midterm & Final)	10%
Exams (Midterm & Final)	20%
Total	**100%**

Grading Scale		
Percentage	**Points**	**Letter Grade**
90% - 100%	≥ 900	A
80% - 89%	800 - 899	B
70 – 79%	700 - 799	C
60 – 69%	600 - 699	D
59% or Below	≤ 599	F

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 responsible for studying all 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 Project: Students 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). The project will require the presentation of figures of any important statistics, plant anatomy, etc., and have sources properly cited (figures included).

Quizzes: There will be 10 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.

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.

LAB ACTIVITIES

Weekly Graded Work (Including Quizzes): This includes any worksheets and quizzes not part of the weekly participation grade. Quizzes are individual and not group assignments. **Note that make-up quizzes will <u>not</u> be offered.**

Lab Reports: There will be several written assignments, culminating in at least one complete lab report. There will be specific instructions given for these and posted at D2L. Students are expected to individually comprise their own unique lab reports. 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. Further instructions for these assignments will be given in class.

Exams: There will be a midterm and final lab exam. **Make-up exams for the lab are <u>not</u> allowed. If you must be absent on exam day for an excused reason, you must let the instructor know <u>prior to</u> exam time.**

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.

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, 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 poof 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 3 days for the assessment to be made up.

Attendance Policy

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 ensure failing the course. These policies may be adjusted as needed for health and safety.

Lecture Schedule

Week	Week of	Chapter/Unit	Assessments
1	Aug. 25th	Ch. 1 Introduction to Plant Life	
2	Sept. 2nd	Ch. 2-3 Chemistry and Cells	
3	Sept. 8th	Ch. 3-4 Cells and Tissues	
4	Sept 15th	Ch. 5-6 Roots and Stems	
5	Sept. 22nd	Ch. 7 Leaves	**Wednesday, Sept 24th - Exam 1 (Ch. 1-7)**
6	Sept. 29th	Ch. 8 Flowers and Fruits	
7	Oct. 6th	Ch. 9 Water and Transport	
8	Oct. 13th	Ch. 10-11 Metabolism and Growth	
9	Oct. 20th	Ch. 12 Meiosis	
10	Oct. 27th	Ch. 16 Classification	**Wednesday, Oct 29th - Exam 2 (Ch. 7-12 and 16)**
11	Nov. 3rd	Ch. 18-19 Algae and Fungi	
12	Nov. 10th	Ch. 20-22 Bryophytes, Seedless Vascular Plants and Gymnosperms	
13	Nov. 17th	Ch. 23 Angiosperms Ch. 24-26 Ecology & Humans	

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

14	Nov 24th	**Thanksgiving Break Nov. 24th - 28th,**	
15	Dec. 1st	Ch. 24-26 Ecology & Humans	**Wednesday, Dec 3rd - Exam 3 (Ch. 20-26)**
16	Dec. 8th	Final Exam Review & Exam **(Exact time TBA)**	**Wednesday, Dec 10th - Final Exam**

Lab Schedule			
Lab	**StartDate**	**Topic**	**Assignments**
1	Aug. 25th	Introduction and safety training	
2	Sept. 2nd	Safety Training, Microscopes, Cells	
3	Sept. 8th	Cell division & Plant tissues	
4	Sept. 15th	Leaves, roots, and stems/Vegetative Propagation	
5	Sept. 22nd	Seeds & Germination	
6	Sept. 29th	Fruits & Flowers	
7	Oct. 6th	Field Lab/Greenhouse*	
8	Oct. 13th	Photosynthesis & Transport and **Midterm Exam**	**Midterm Lab Exam (Labs 1-7)**
9	Oct. 20th	Algae & Fungi	
11	Oct. 27th	**No Labs - Holiday**	
12	Nov. 3rd	Seedless Plants	
13	Nov. 10th	Seed Plants	
14	Nov. 17th	Ecology/Ethnobotany	
15	Nov. 24th	**Thanksgiving Break Nov. 24th - 28th,**	
16	Dec. 1st	**Final Exam & Presentations**	**Wednesday, Dec 3rd - Final Lab Exam** **Research Project Due Sunday, Nov 30th**
17	Dec. 8th	**Finals Week – No Labs**	

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 technical requirements

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

LMS Browser Support:

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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

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

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

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 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

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

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