



BSC1411L, SECTIONS 8IE, 8DE, 8AE, and 8TE, Botany Lab
COURSE SYLLABUS FOR FALL 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Brittney Council

Office Location: 8750 N Central Expy, Suite 1900, Box 30, Dallas, TX 75231, 9th Floor room 919 (Dallas Campus)

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 9:10 am-9:40 am and 12:30 pm-1 pm

Office Phone: (903) 886-5525

Office Fax: N/A

University Email Address: Brittney.Council@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

Lab Manual: The lab manual and other materials will be provided in class and posted on D2L.

Note on Lab Safety Equipment: Students do not need to purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) for this lab. Goggles and nitrile gloves will be provided in botany lab.

Computers and Software: A computer or tablet with internet access is needed. You will need Adobe Acrobat, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Power Point, and Microsoft Excel. Other additional software needed for projects (if required) will be noted by the instructor and will not require you to purchase the software.

Calculators: You will need calculators for lab activities such as lab assignments and write-ups as well as quizzes and exams throughout the semester.

Course Description

Summary: 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. This course is designed for students majoring in Agricultural Science, Plant and Soil Science, Wildlife and Conservation Science, and

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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.

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

BSC1411 Laboratory Note

Enrollment Requirements: You **must** be enrolled in one of the BSC1411 laboratory sections to receive credit for the course. Your laboratory grade will account for 25% of your final overall 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 of the lab. Each lab section will have its own D2L page as well as a central folder on the main course page. All labs will meet in designated lab room unless otherwise noted by the university or your instructor.

Botany Lab Material

Summary: This course is meant for building a solid foundation of fundamental concepts relating to plant sciences that includes a number of other fields given that many scientific fields are in practice multidisciplinary. Scientific areas that will be covered include wildlife and conservation, animal sciences (such as insect-plant interactions), plant and soil sciences, environmental sciences and ecology, genetics, evolutionary history, biotechnology, and the utilization and impact of plants on humans. Regular weekly studying and fully reading the textbook and lab manual, lab lecture slides, notes, reviews, and other materials provided on MyLeo for the class are critical for success in this class. Make notes and drawings using pen and paper or a tablet for review. For your lab manual paper drawings are needed. Some items discussed in lab, 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.

Student Learning Outcomes (Core)

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. Student communication will be clear, purposeful, and will make appropriate use of evidence, data, and technology as applicable.
3. Students will be able to interpret, test, and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data.
4. 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.
5. In addition, students will communicate ideas and concepts developed in the course through written and multimedia presentations.

Additional Student Learning Outcomes

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

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 as well as lab activities. 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.

Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and PDF Files: You will need to be familiar with making Microsoft Word and PowerPoint documents. You will need to know how to perform simple calculations and make graphs in Microsoft Excel. You should also be familiar with using Adobe applications and viewing PDF files.

Instructional Methods

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory for both the lecture and the 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. Of course, these policies may be adjusted as needed for health and safety.

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

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.

Turning Assignments in on Time: Assignments must be turned in on time. Late work will receive a 10% penalty for each day late for up to 3 days after the due date, after which any late assignments will receive a zero grade.

Note on AI Use: Unless otherwise noted by the instructor, AI is prohibited from being used in this course.

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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.

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 on Exams: 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.

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>

Communication: If problems arise or you have questions, contact your instructor. If you missed an exam, project presentation, or other major assignment, be sure to contact your instructor for important information of how to make up the assessment.

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.

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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Other Notes: I make efforts to conserve resources in providing materials for class. All materials provided in class are to be found on the D2L website. I will not provide hard-copy handouts of all materials that you can access outside of the lab manual and other key materials, such as if there is any hard-copy exam. You may print what you need, when you need it; or just download a copy to have handy. 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. Practice time management and use a calendar to schedule when materials are due, exams are, etc.

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%

Final overall grade combined between lecture and lab:

Lecture	75%
Lab	25%
TOTAL	100% (combined)

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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.

Discussions: Online discussions will be periodically assigned throughout the semester. Participation will be for a grade. Topics of the discussions will vary. Be sure to listen to your instructor's announcements and instructions in class or posted in D2L and to complete the discussion post by the set due date.

Weekly Graded Work (Including Quizzes): This includes any worksheets and quizzes not part of the weekly participation grade. Work besides quizzes will be assigned periodically through the semester and will usually consist of short take-home assignments to be turned in during class or taken online in D2L. Quizzes will be online in D2L. Listen to your instructor for announcements and check D2L announcements regularly. 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 lab reports. 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. All exams are in class. Books, notes, cell phones, etc. are **not** allowed on any exam. **If you must be absent on exam day for an excused reason, you must let the instructor know prior to exam time so an alternative can be planned.**

Course Outline/Calendar

Lab	Week Start Date	Topic	Assignments
1	August 24	Introduction and Safety Training	Lab 1 Report Due August 30
2	August 31	Safety Training, Microscopes, Cells (Census is September 4)	Lab 2 Report Due September 6, Lab Assignment 1 Due September 6
3	September 7	Cell Division & Plant tissues	Lab 3 Report Due September 13, Lab Quiz 1 Due September 13
4	September 14	Leaves, roots, and stems/Vegetative Propagation	Lab 4 Report Due September 20, Lab Assignment 2 Due September 20

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5	September 21	Seeds & Germination	Lab 5 Report Due September 27, Lab Quiz 2 Due October 4
6	September 28	Fruits & Flowers	Lab 6 Report Due October 4, Lab Assignment 3 Due October 4
7	October 5	Hydroponics and Indoor Crop Technology	Lab 7 Report Due October 11, Lab Quiz 3 Due October 11
8	October 12	Photosynthesis & Transport and Midterm Exam (Labs 1-7)	Midterm Exam (Labs 1-7) , Lab 8 Report Due October 18
9	October 19	Algae	Lab 9 Report Due October 25, Lab Assignment 4 Due October 25
11	October 26	Fungi (October 29 is last day to drop)	Lab 10 Report Due November 1, Lab Quiz 4 Due November 1
12	November 2	Seedless Plants	Lab 11 Report Due November 8, Lab Assignment 5 Due November 8
13	November 9	Seed Plants	Lab 12 Report Due November 15, Lab Quiz 5 Due November 15
14	November 16	Ecology	Lab 13 Report Due November 22
15	November 23	Ethnobotany (Tuesday only)	Thanksgiving Holiday Nov. 26-28
16	November 30	Final Exam (Labs 8-14)/Presentations	Final Exam (Labs 8-14), Group Presentations , Lab 14 Due December 6
17	December 7	Finals Week – No Labs	

Meeting Days: Class will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:45 am-11 am and from 1:00pm-2:15 pm (check your class schedule for which section you are in for the exact time). **Lab is a face-to-face class, and attendance is mandatory.**

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

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:

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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.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>

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COURSE

CWID and Password

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.

Technology-Related Issues

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 ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

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Students will need reliable computer and internet access for this course. Students must be able to effectively use myLeo email, myLeo Online D2L, and Microsoft Office.

Learning Management System (LMS) – D2L

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:

- View the [Learning Management System Requirements Webpage](#).
- Learn more on the [LMS Browser Support Webpage](#).

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 on the [Brightspace Support Webpage](#).

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor. Correspondence will always be through university email (your “myLeo” mail) and announcements in myLeo online (D2L). You will not RECEIVE email through D2L, so be sure to check your ETAMU email for communication. Students are encouraged to check university email daily.

Include the Following in Emails with Instructor:

- Course name and subject in the subject line
- Salutation (Good afternoon, Dr. Jackson)
- Proper email etiquette (no “text” emails – use proper grammar and punctuation)
- Student name and CWID after the body of the email (possibly add to student signature on email)

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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.

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 online in the [Student Guidebook](#).

Students should also consult the [Rules of Netiquette Webpage](#) for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#)

Academic Integrity

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

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

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Use of Artificial Intelligence

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.

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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

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: [Office of 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 ETAMU 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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health – Counseling Services

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, 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

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.



As an Institutional Member of the National Association of Schools of Music, East Texas State A&M University supports the Association's commitment to student health and wellness. The following web address provides links to information for resources related to physical and mental well-being, as well as assists in offering preventative measures that students can take to avoid serious and/or chronic conditions: [Musician Health and Safety - East Texas A&M University](#)

Department and Accrediting Agency Statement:

School of Music Mission Statement:

The School of Music at East Texas A&M University promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

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