

BZ 104

BASIC CONCEPTS OF PLANT LIFE

Fall 2007

Yates 104, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM

Instructor: Dr. Arathi Seshadri

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Office hours: By appointment *via* email

Objective: To present an overview of key biological concepts with an emphasis on plants and plant-like organisms. **This course is intended primarily for non-science majors.** Credit is not allowed for students who have taken BZCC120, LSCC102, or LS103. This course does not serve as a prerequisite for more advanced courses in biology or botany.

Course Materials:

- All of my lectures are on power point and will be available for download as pdf files from Ram CT.
- Plant Biology by Graham, Graham and Wilcox (**Optional**, you will not be tested on any material from the book that is not covered in my lectures)

Examinations: Your performance in the class will be evaluated by three exams during the semester worth 100 points each and a final exam (partially cumulative, worth 200 points). Your lowest exam score (calculated on a percentage basis) will be dropped before final grades are determined. Your final grade in the course will be based on a total of 400 possible points. **You may miss only one of the three exams given in class** (the score from that exam will be dropped). **But you must take the final exam (it is not optional!)** **No make-up exams will be given, and no final exams will be given earlier or later than the assigned time.** The intention of allowing you to drop your lowest exam score is to allow for unforeseen circumstances such as medical or family emergencies that interfere with taking an exam.

All Exams will consist of Multiple Choice Questions. Exam 1, 2 and 3 will have 50 questions, 2 points each. Final Exam will have 100 questions, 2 points each – 25 questions from previous sections and 75 questions from new section.

Grading:

Exams	3 x 100pts each	300 pts
Final	1 x 200 pts	200 pts
Exam Dropped		– 100 pts (Final not eligible for drop)
Total		400 pts

Grading Scale: 90-100%= A, 80-89.9 %= B, 70-79.9 %= C, 60-69.9 %= D, < 59.9% = F
(**No curving or individual extra credits**)

Exams:

Exam 1 – Thursday, September 13

Exam 2 – Thursday, October 11

Exam 3 – Thursday, November 8

Final Exam – Tuesday, December 11, 3:40 – 5:40 PM

Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this class and the penalties are severe, i.e., failure in the class and referral to the University's Director of Judicial Affairs.

Schedule of lectures:

The schedule is for planning only and is subject to change. Please check Ram CT frequently for updates

Date	Topic
Aug 21	Plant biology – An introduction, Plants and people
Aug 23	Molecules of life, cells
Aug 28	Photosynthesis and respiration
Aug 30	DNA, RNA, Cell division
Sep 4	Stems, roots and leaves
Sep 6	Video of Private life of plants – 2
Sep 11	Plant behavior
Sep 13	Exam 1
Sep 18	Plant reproduction
Sep 20	Private life of plants – 1
Sep 25	Genetics
Sep 27	Laws of Inheritance
Oct 2	Biological evolution
Oct 4	Private life of plants – 4
Oct 9	Diversity of plants
Oct 11	Exam 2
Oct 16	Prokaryotes and protists
Oct 18	Fungi and lichens
Oct 23	Seedless plants; Gymnosperms – first seed plants
Oct 25	Private life of plants – 3
Oct 30	Angiosperm diversity and reproduction
Nov 1	Flowering plants
Nov 6	Plant-animal interaction and coevolution
Nov 8	Exam 3
Nov 13	Ecology and plant adaptations to the environment
Nov 15	Private life of plants – 5
Nov 20	Thanksgiving vacation
Nov 22	Thanksgiving vacation
Nov 27	Ecosystems
Nov 29	Human impacts and sustainability
Dec 4	Private life of plants – 6
Dec 6	Review

FINAL EXAM – TUESDAY, DEC 11, 3:40-5:40 PM