

BOT 3015

Instructor: Dr. Rani Vajravelu
Office: BIO 201D

Principles of Plant Science

Biology Department
Phone: 407 823 0990

SPRING 2020

University of Central Florida
Email: rani.vajravelu@ucf.edu

Lecture: M, W, F 8:30 – 9:20 AM **Location:** CB1 104 **Pre-Requisites:** BSC 2011C **Credit:** 3(3,0)

Face to Face Office Hours: Place: Biology 201D

Office hours (no appointment needed): **Monday:** 1:00 – 3:00 PM & **Wednesday:** 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

On-line Office hours (thro' Webcourses): **Friday:** 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM. *Other hours by prior appointment.*

e-mail: Contact through Webcourses Inbox (expect 2 business days for a reply). Most general concerns regarding course content/procedure will be addressed in class in place of an individual reply.

Course home page: <http://webcourses.ucf.edu> **BOT3015 Spring 20**

Find more course policies marked with (*) on this website. Consider them as extension of this syllabus. Online proctoring tools, such as PROCTORHUB, may be used in this course as needed.

Browser recommendations: See <http://guides.instructure.com> Search "Browser Recommendations"

Tech help: webcourses@ucf.edu or call CDWS 3-0407 / helpdesk@mail.ucf.edu 3-5117

McGraw-Hill Connect: <https://mhedu.force.com/CXG/s/ContactUs> 1.800.331.5094

Course Description: Introduction to core botanical concepts: diversity in the Plant Kingdom, structure and function, growth and development, photosynthesis, water relations and ecology.

Objectives:

- An understanding of the major groups of land plants (Embryophyta), their evolutionary history and what distinguishes the major lineages from each other.
- Competency with cell and tissue types and their basic function in vascular plants.
- Knowledge of the unique growth and development patterns and tissues seen in plants.
- Understanding of basic metabolism in plants with regards to photosynthesis.
- Understanding the significance of water relations, water uptake and nutrient uptake strategies.
- Overview of plants in the environment and their importance in human civilization.

Required material:

Stern's Introductory Plant Biology, 14th edition, by McGraw-Hill Education, **with** Connect access.

Choose one of the following two options and register for Learn Smart Adaptive Learning tool:

1. Connect Access Card for Stern's Introductory Plant Biology with eBook 9781260030136 **OR**
2. Connect Access Card for Stern's Introductory Plant Biology with Loose Leaf Textbook 9781260149357

Attendance:

Regular class attendance is expected of all students. Roll will be taken randomly. You are responsible for all materials covered and all announcements made in every class, whether you are present or not. Instructor will not provide missed lecture material; you may get it from another student. Quizzes, tests and exams often include questions on material presented in class, so performance on these indirectly reflects attendance. You need not bring class absence excuses unless you missed a test/exam. If you are in University related activities, you must inform the instructor ahead of time to have your excuses approved.

Late Registration: January 06– 10; **DROP / SWAP:** January 9; **Withdrawal Deadline:** Mar 20

University Holidays: Monday, Jan 20; and Mar 9 – 14

Please Note: All faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the academic activity marked as "Pre-test" on course homepage by the end of the first week of classes, or as soon as possible after adding the course, but no later than January 10. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

Week #	Date	Lecture schedule (tentative) Test schedule is fixed.
		<i>Any change in this schedule will be announced in class.</i>
Week 1	Jan 06	Syllabus Distribution; Course procedures. Chapter 1 Introduction Read on your own <i>Pre-test (Financial Aid) by 01/10/20</i>
	Jan 08	Chapter 3 Cell (Brief Refresh) <i>1st LearnSmart assignment due by 01/12/20</i>
	Jan 10	Chapter 4 Plant Tissues
Week 2	Jan 13 - 17	Chapter 4 Plant Tissues contd.
Week 3	Jan 22 - 24	Chapter 5 Roots and Soils
Week 4	Jan 27 - 31	Chapter 6 Stems
Week 5	Feb 03	Review for Test 1
	Feb 05	Test 1 CB1 104
	Feb 07	Chapter 7 Leaves
Week 6	Feb 10 - 14	Chapter 7 contd. (portion of Ch 10 included)
Week 7	Feb 17 - 21	Chapter 8 Flowers, Fruits, and Seeds
Week 8	Feb 24 - 28	Chapter 9 & 11 Water in Plants & Growth & Development
Week 9	Mar 02	Review for Test 2
	Mar 04	Test 2 CB1 104
	Mar 06	Chapter 16 Plant Names and Classification
Week 10	Mar 09 - 13	Spring Break
Week 11	Mar 16 - 20	Chapter 14 Plant Breeding, Propagation and Biotechnology
Week 12	Mar 23 - 27	Chapter 20 & 21 Intro to Plant Kingdom & SVP
Week 13	Mar 30 - Apr 03	Chapters 22 Seed plants: Gymnosperms
Week 14	Apr 06	Review for Test 3
	Apr 08	Test 3 CB1 104
	Apr 10	Chapter 23 Seed Plants: Angiosperms
Week 15	Apr 13 - 17	Ch 23 contd. & Chapter 24 Flowering Plants & Civilization <i>Post-test due by 04/17/20</i>
Week 16	Apr 20	Last day of class. Final exam review.
	TBA	Final cumulative exam CB1

Evaluation:

Pre- Test	20 points	2.5%
Post- Test	40 points	5%
Tests: 3 @ 100 pts each (none will be dropped)	300 points	37.5%
<i>Learn Smart</i> homework: Best 12 @ 20 pts each	240 points	30 %
Reflection (in-class or take-home): Best 10 @ 10 pts each	100 points	12.5%
Final Exam (cumulative)	100 points	12.5%
Total	800 points	

Scantrons will be provided for class tests & Final exam; all Homework due by 11:59 pm on the announced submission date.

Students who show up late (more than 5 minutes) after the scheduled start for any of the test/exam will be marked absent and must go through the **makeup** policy.

For any concerns, check with Dr. Rani Vajravelu a week in advance.

Evaluation Policy for the entire course:

A 10-point scale will be used to convert numerical grade in to a letter grade. That is, 90 - 100% = A; 80 - 89% = B, 70 - 79% = C; 60 - 69% = D; 0 - 59% = F
+ or – grades are not issued. NC grade is not given for this course.

Incomplete Grade: 'I' is given only for students who have completed all of the course assessments with a minimum 'C' average and missed the final exam with a valid, documented excuse submitted to the instructor within 24 hours of missing the final exam.

GRADE POSTING:

Log in to Webcourses course homepage and click "Grades." Posting may take about a week after each graded activity. Instructor is not responsible for network problems and log in difficulties.

Bring concerns regarding posted grades to the attention of the instructor within one week (24 hrs. for final exam) from the date the grade was issued. After this time, the posted grades will become final. Instructor retains the right to change the grade if an error occurred in recording student grades. When such a change occurs, student will be informed through UCF Knight's email. If you do not have one, set up an account at <https://www.secure.net.ucf.edu/KnightsEmailSelfService>

GRADED EXAMS:

Tests are machine graded. Scantrons will not be returned to students. A score sheet will be printed out of each student's scantron with all incorrect responses marked on it.

Individual score sheets will be available for the students to pick up for two weeks after each completed test.

Please use the posted office hours of the instructor. Any other changes about extra office hours will be announced in class. Students must present their picture ID to receive the score sheets that are returned.

For anyone who wants to review with original test, test books will be available for two weeks after the test. You may not review the test book, if you did not take the test. You must have your score sheets with you to check your answers and for any concern regarding course final grade.

Such post-test reviews must be completed within two weeks after each exam. Only one test will be available for review at one time. Unclaimed score sheets by the end of the semester are not the responsibility of the instructor.

***Make up Policy (more info on Webcourses):**

There is NO MAKE UP for a missed homework/in-class assignments and no points will be given for late submission. Instructor is NOT responsible for internet problems (unless from Webcourses that affects the entire class) including but not limited to late attempt, last minute submission issues, browser problem, etc.

Any personal issue with homework should be resolved during posted office hours by the following Monday.

If a test/exam is missed with a valid reason (a documented excuse from doctor, police, judge, official UCF event required), a makeup can be requested. It is the student's responsibility to initiate the request and follow through the make-up exam instructions. A student can have a maximum of one chance for a make up for the entire semester unless the reason is University- approved. A missed make up test will automatically receive a "0" grade.

Copyright statement:

The instructor may provide links to various external websites to enhance your understanding of the course content. Students are advised to use caution and good judgment in using such content that should not be copied, duplicated or downloaded. For more info visit:

http://www.copyright.com/content/cc3/en/toolbar/education/resources/copyright_on_campus.html

Course Accessibility Statement:

Students with disabilities who need accommodations for tests/exams must be registered with UCF Student Accessibility Services, phone (407) 823-2371. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. In addition, if accommodations are required within the classroom or with online assignments, students must schedule a meeting with the professor at the beginning of the semester to help in executing such accommodations in a timely manner. Email requests will not be sufficient for classroom/online accommodations.

Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating:

UCF faculty members have a responsibility for your education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to infringements of academic integrity. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a "Z Designation" on a student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty. Please read <https://ied.sdes.ucf.edu/integrity/>

Other important policies:

1. Students who are officially registered for this particular course only are allowed to attend the lectures and take the quizzes and tests. Instructor is not responsible for any problems related to registration.
2. Students must follow the University standards for personal and academic conduct as outlined in The Golden Rule. See <http://www.ucf.edu/goldenrule>
3. Instructor does NOT provide lecture PowerPoints. Instead, will post the **lecture outlines** on Webcourses.
4. Arrive at the classroom by the start of the class lecture. Arriving late and/or leaving early from the lecture hall disrupts the entire class, and you risk missing the important announcements and pop-quizzes.
5. Recording of class lectures in audio/video form NOT allowed. Duplication and distribution of class lectures and exam questions strongly prohibited. ***Third parties are selling class notes and other materials from this class without my authorization. Please be aware that such class materials may contain errors. Use these materials at your own risk.***
6. Please turn off all kinds of audio/video, cell phones while inside the classroom. Dictionaries, books, pocket calculators or organizers, scanning pens, or other electronic devices NOT allowed for use during class quizzes, tests and examinations.
7. When a student leaves the exam hall once the exam is in progress, he/she is considered to have completed the exam and will not be allowed back in to the hall to continue the exam.
8. Anyone who interrupts the classroom-learning environment by any kind of disruptive behavior (including the ones in 3 & 4 above), that interferes with the instructor's right to teach and fellow students' right to learn, will be removed from the classroom and appropriate University disciplinary action will be initiated.
9. You are advised to use the course homepage for BOT3015 related posting only. Students usually exchange their class notes through the discussion board. Please remember Dr. Rani does not verify the accuracy of such shared information among students.

General Policy:

Changes will be made in the above policy if, in my judgment, the interest of learning and fairness dictate such changes. Any concern on the course proceedings or grades should be resolved by 12 pm April 19, 2020.

A final note from Dr. Rani:

Please do not rely on email to solve serious grade concerns and other course-related problems that you may encounter during the course period. Feel free to use the face-face office hours to discuss your concerns directly to me. I will do everything possible in my capacity to make this course a pleasant experience for you!