

**University of Central Florida
Biology Department
Principles of Plant Science Lecture Syllabus**

BOT 3015 -0002

Fall 2020

Instructor: Dr. Rani Vajravelu (Dr. Rani)

Phone: N/A

Office: Virtual

Email: rani.vajravelu@ucf.edu (for general purposes only; see below for course-related emails)

Lecture: M & W: 12:00 PM - 1:20 PM

Location: Virtual through Webcourses & Zoom

Pre-Req: BSC 2011C

Credit: 3(3,0)

Online Office Hours: M & W: 1:20 – 2:00 PM (exclusively for this course);
Other options like chat and one-one video conferencing available with prior appointment.

e-mail: Contact through Webcourses Inbox (expect 2 business days for a reply). Redundant info may not receive a reply. I will address most general concerns in class or through online announcements.

Course home page: <http://webcourses.ucf.edu> **BOT3015 Fall 2020**

Find more course policies marked with (*) on this website. Consider them as extension of this syllabus.

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 plant 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:

1. Stern’s Introductory Plant Biology, 15th edition, by McGraw-Hill Education, **with** Connect & Proctorio access.
ISBN: 9781264964154 Registration to Connect to use Learn Smart Adaptive Learning tool.
2. Access to Webcourses and a secure internet connection for all class meetings & assignments.
3. CANVAS App - free to download from UCF (enable ‘notifications’ from Webcourses).
4. A webcam device for online proctoring tools. Policy is supported by the Office of Academic Conduct, UCF.

Attendance:

Regular class attendance is expected of all students, but NOT mandatory.

Your attendance is determined by your ‘online presence’ that is, participation in online live lectures, discussions, completion of assignments within the announced deadline.

You are responsible for all materials covered and all announcements made in every class, whether you are logged into online lectures or not. Random poll during class will record your participation.

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.

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 August 28. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

Late Registration: Aug 24- 28; **DROP / SWAP:** Aug 28; **Withdrawal Deadline:** October 30

University Holidays: September 7, Nov 11, Nov 25 -28

Week #	Date	Lecture schedule (tentative) Test schedule is fixed.
	<i>Any change in this schedule will be announced in class.</i>	
Week 1	Aug 24	Syllabus Distribution; Course procedures. Chapter 1 Introduction Read on your own <i>Pre-test (Financial Aid) by 08/28/20</i>
	Aug 26	Chapter 3 Cell <i>1st Smart Book homework due by 08/30/20</i>
Week 2	Aug 31 – Sep 02	Chapter 4 Plant Tissues Quiz 1
Week 3	Sep 09 (07 Labor day)	Chapter 5 Roots and Soils
Week 4	Sep 14 - 16	Chapter 6 Stems Quiz 2
Week 5	Sep 21	Review for Test 1
	Sep 23	Test 1 (100 points)
Week 6	Sep 28 - 30	Chapter 7 (portion of Ch 10 included)
Week 7	Oct 5 - 7	Chapter 8 Flowers, Fruits, and Seeds
Week 8	Oct 12 - 14	Ch 23 Seed plants: Angiosperms Quiz 3
Week 9	Oct 19 - 21	Chapter 24 Flowering Plants & Civilization
Week 10	Oct 26	Review for Test 2 Quiz 4
	Oct 28	Test 2 (100 points)
Week 11	Nov 2 - 4	Chapter 9 Water in Plants; Chapter 11 Growth & Development
Week 12	Nov 9 (11- holiday)	Chapter 14 Plant Breeding, Propagation and Biotechnology
Week 13	Nov 16 & 18	Chapter 20 & 21 Intro to Plant Kingdom & Seedless Vascular Plants Quiz 5
Week 14	Nov 23	Chapter 22 Seed plants: Gymnosperms
Week 15	Nov 30	Review for Test 3 <i>Post-test due by 12/01/20</i>
	Dec 02	Test 3 (100 points); Last day of class. Final exam review.
Week 16	Dec 09	Final cumulative exam 10:00 AM - 12:50 PM (100 points)

Evaluation:

Pre- test & Post-test	2 @ 10 points each	20 points	4%
Tests	Best 2 out of 3 @ 100 points each	200 points	40%
SmartBook homework	Best 10 out of 14 @ 10 points each	100 points	20%
Chapter quizzes	Best 4 out of 5 @ 20 points each	80 points	16%
Final exam (required)	Cumulative, 100 points worth	100 points	20%
Total		500 points	100%

All SmartBook Homework due by 11:59 pm on the announced submission date.

Quizzes & tests will cover material covered in lectures, textbook, homework assignments and any visuals used for learning.

Expect all kinds of graded activities monitored by various online proctoring tools.

Evaluation Policy for the entire course:

A 10-point scale will be used to convert numerical grade into 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." Use Webcourses as a resource only to find out your individual assignment grade. Be advised that your grade average will continue to go up or down as you complete each assignment.

Your overall course grade will be calculated based on assignment group weight as per syllabus policy.

Instructor will notify you when your final grade average is posted on Webcourses which is expected to be released after the final exam.

Grade 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 two days (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 was made in recording student grades. If such a change is made, 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>

Feedback & Grade concerns:

For all online quizzes, individual feedback will be given on Webcourses once the entire class has completed the quiz.

Any personal issue with quiz should be resolved during posted online office hours by the following business day.

Email your concern prior to the office hour to allow enough time to locate your quiz/exam of concern.

Test answers will not be released; however, a feedback will be given during the next Zoom class meeting only after the entire class has completed the test.

Prior appointment, ID verifications and video chat required for individual test feedback. This measure is essential due to online nature of the course.

Make up Policy

Any missed test or quiz will receive a "0" grade, which will be dropped as your lowest grade without any grade penalty. A student can have a maximum of one missed test for the entire semester.

If you anticipate missing a scheduled test/quiz due to University/government- related reasons, reach out to me a week in advance. A makeup can be arranged at the earliest convenience.

For all other reasons for missing a test, students must provide signed documents that support their excuse. Merit of the reason is to be determined by the instructor only upon the submission of valid, signed documents. Once approved, the final exam will be counted twice, one as a final exam score and other in place of the missed exam.

There is NO MAKE UP for a missed homework and quiz and no points will be given for late submission.

Instructor is NOT responsible for internet problems (unless from Webcourses / Connect that affects the entire class) including but not limited to late attempt, last minute submission issues, browser problem, etc.

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 quizzes/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 online classroom or with assignments, students must schedule an online meeting with the professor right after the first day of class to help in executing such accommodations in a timely manner. Email requests alone will not guarantee any Zoom classroom/polling 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://jed.sdes.ucf.edu/integrity/>

Other important policies:

1. Students who are officially registered for this course only can attend the Zoom lectures and take the quizzes and tests. Instructor is not responsible for any problems related to registration and any missed activity that results from late 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. Log in to Zoom at least five minutes prior to each synchronous lecture to test your tech accessories.
4. Avoid late log in to Zoom as it disrupts the lecture and you risk missing polls that record participation.
5. Log in to Zoom with your registered full name. Nick names/unrecognizable persons will be removed from Zoom.
6. Duplication and distribution of class lectures and quiz 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.*
7. Anyone who interrupts the classroom-learning environment by any kind of repeated disruptive behavior (including #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.
8. You are advised to use the course homepage for BOT3015 related posting only.
9. Your instructor is **not** the person to resolve your tech issues. Reach out to the following centers for your tech solutions: webcourses@ucf.edu and UCF IT Support Center <https://ucf.service-now.com/ucfit>
Connect Plus: <https://mhedu.force.com/CXG/s/ContactUs>
10. Keep track of all announcements and new uploads on Webcourses course homepage.

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 posted grades should be resolved by 5 pm Dec 10, 2020.

If you want to succeed in this course:

- Attend all the classes. Buy the required textbook and register for Connect Plus.
- Log in to Zoom at least five minutes before class start time. Choose a distraction free area for class work.
- Develop a positive attitude towards learning. Be prepared for long hours of intensive work.
- Read all lecture materials from previous class meeting.
- Complete the assigned work. Actively participate in class discussions.
- *Remember that your final grade is what you earn.*

From my side, I will do everything possible in my capacity to make this course a pleasant experience for you!

