

Plant Biology 101
Autumn Quarter, 2008
General Course Information
Week 1

Welcome to Plant Biology 101!

The instructor of this course is:

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This course is part of a two-quarter sequence. In this quarter we will concentrate on the vascular plant, including what they look like, how they function and how they reproduce.

LECTURES

Plant Biology 101 consists of three lectures a week (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday) Campbell Hall, room 200. In addition, there is a recitation section of two hours that meets once a week.

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the wonderful world of plants and the principles that underlie their form and function. It is also designed to introduce you to the world of scientific inquiry. The lectures and recitations are designed to meet these two goals.

I will do all in my power to give clear, interesting and provocative lectures, but I can not force you to learn. I can only be your guide, but if we work together you should have an interesting quarter and you just might learn a thing or two about plants.

To aid you in your studies, I have prepared a **Lecture Manual**. This is available at Uniprint at Tuttle Park Place, 2055 Millikin Way (In the Tuttle Park Place Garage):

1. Learning objectives for each lecture. These are designed to help you determine what I think is important in each lecture.
2. A summary of each lecture. This includes all the written material that appears in the lecture.
3. Terms you should know from each lecture and a definition of each. These are very important and you must learn them.
4. Test Questions. There are five questions for each lecture similar to the questions that will be on the quizzes, the midterm and the final.
5. Readings. The assigned text is Introductory Botany, 2nd Ed. By Linda Berg. The readings will be in the lecture manual.

RECITATION

Besides the lectures, the course has a two hour recitation. These are held in room 024 Jennings Hall. You will need to buy a recitation manual at the Uniprint store at Tuttle Park Place, 2055 Millikin Way (In the Tuttle Park Place Garage). This manual is essential to the taking of this course and should be purchased before the first recitation.

WEEKLY WORKSHEETS

Each week in your recitation section you will be required to fill in a worksheet and hand it in at the end of the session. Your TA will grade these, and return them during the next recitation. Each week's worksheet sheet is worth 15 points. There will be nine worksheets, but only eight are required - the lowest score will be dropped at the end of the course.

PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NO RECITATION THE FIRST WEEK OF THE QUARTER!

QUIZZES AND EXAMINATIONS

In recitation each week will be a quiz worth 15 points each based on the previous week's lectures. There will be 8 such quizzes and you must complete 7. If you take all 8 quizzes, the lowest score will be dropped. These exams take the place of one midterm and are important, so study for them.

The midterm examination covers lectures 1-13. It is worth 100 points. The final is worth 200 points and will be in two parts. The first half covers lectures 14-25, while the second half covers material in the recitations for the year.

PEA EXPERIMENT

One of the reasons the university asks you to take courses such as Plant Biology 101 is to introduce you to the scientific method. There is no better way to achieve this goal than to have you do an experiment and write a paper about it. During the quarter you will be doing an experiment to test the effect of gibberellin, a growth hormone, on pea plants. Having completed the experiment, you will be required to write a scientific paper reporting your results. This is a straightforward assignment and you will be given detailed instructions in your recitation concerning it. A word of caution: Please, do not think all you have to do is copy a paper someone else wrote in an earlier quarter. We have become experts in detecting copied papers and we will (and have) take you to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. Once more, please don't try, it isn't worth it.

SPECIAL PROJECT

During the course of the quarter you will be asked to do one more thing. I call this a special project and it is anything you want to do that can be related to the course. The aim of this special project is to connect this course, in a subject you are probably not all that happy to take, to something in your life you like. This is meant to be a fun project. I want to see some effort expended to complete it, but more than effort, I would like to see some creative thought go into it. The last page of your recitation manual has some ideas and your TAs will discuss the special project with you.

GRADING

Your final grade will be computed according to the following percentage of your total points.

93 – 100% = A	80 – 82% = B-	67 – 69% = D+
90 – 92% = A-	77 – 79% = C+	60 – 66% = D
87 – 89% = B+	73 – 76% = C	00 – 60% = F
83 – 86% = B	70 – 72% = C-	

Please note: you must receive 60% to pass this course. If necessary I will adjust the percentage for letter grades down to D, but you must accumulate 60% to pass!

Final Thoughts

If you attend the lectures and the recitations, you should learn a good deal about plants. Plants are truly interesting, worthwhile organisms and I hope this course will make that evident to you.