

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Biological Sciences
Fall 2017

COURSE SYLLABUS
BIOL 1411-02 General Botany

Lecture Time & Location:	M,W,F 11:00-11:50am LDB 214
Lab Time and Location:	Varies by section, LDB 341
Instructor:	Christopher Randle
Office/Lab:	Lee Drain Building 141/135
Office Hours ¹ :	T, Th 8:30-11:00 am or by appointment
Phone:	294-1554
Email:	randle@shsu.edu

Course Objectives: All life on the planet depends on plants for the production of food and oxygen through photosynthesis. It is not surprising that plants are the basis of all terrestrial biological communities. This course is intended to provide a broad understanding of the ways in which plants affect our lives and their importance in evolutionary history and in current global phenomena. Many aspects of botany will be investigated from the anatomy and morphology of plants to the function and inheritance of genetic traits, to the evolution of major plant lineages.

Course Structure: Lectures will occur M,W,F from 11:00-11:50 am. Each student will also be required to attend a weekly laboratory, consisting of three hours. Lab times will vary depending on the section for which you registered. The first week in which the lab meets begins Monday, August 28.

Textbooks: *Biology of Plants* eighth edition by R. Evert and S. Eichhorn

This is an excellent source of information. *Completion of assigned reading material is mandatory.* Reading assignments (see the Schedule of Topics) will be given in class and posted on Blackboard. The textbook and lab manual have been bundled together and will be available at the University Bookstore after September 1.

Grading: 75% of your final grade will be drawn from your lecture grade (see below), and 25% will be drawn from your lab grade (laboratory syllabus will be provided in lab).

Lecture grade: The lecture grade will be determined from four exams (non-cumulative) and a final exam (cumulative), 12 online "Study Buddy" quizzes, and participation in online discussions through the Packback web platform. The lowest of all exam grades, including the final², will not be included in the final calculation of your grade. Your overall lecture grade will be determined by the percentage of total points earned in lecture. 90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, < 60% = F. A curve may be applied if the class average is below 70% and attendance is higher than the class average. No grade will be decreased due to any curve.

¹ I may be in my laboratory: LDB 135. Enter quietly through room 136.

² This means that you do not have to take the final if you (1) have not missed any of the four lecture exams, and (2) you are satisfied with your grade inclusive of the 12 study buddy quizzes, four lecture exams, Packback participation, and whatever you're getting in the lab. I strongly caution anyone tempted to drop the final exam to verify with me by Dec 4 that you are getting the grade that you think you are getting.

Grade schedule and breakdown:

Weekly Online Study Buddy (11 weeks x 10 pts)	110 pts
Weekly Packback Participation (12 weeks x 5pts)	60 pts
Lecture Exam 1: Friday, Sep 22*	100 pts
Lecture Exam 2: Friday, October 13*	100 pts
Lecture Exam 3: Monday, Nov 6*	100 pts
Lecture Exam 4: Friday, Dec 1*	100 pts
Final: Wednesday, Dec 6, 12:00pm -2:00pm	100 pts
Total (- lowest exam score)	570 pts

*Dates are subject to change.

Lecture Exams: Exams will be in a multiple-choice format. Each student will be required to bring a Scantron 882-E form and two #2 pencils to exams. Use of any electronic device (cell-phone, calculator, etc.) during the examination period will result in the automatic assignment of a "0" on the exam. Students will be expected to arrive to exams on time. Entry to exams will be allowed until the first student has turned in a completed exam. FAILURE TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE LABELING OF YOUR EXAM HARDCOPY AND SCANTRON MAY ALSO RESULT IN AN EXAM GRADE OF "0".

THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP LECTURE EXAMS OFFERED.

Study Buddy Online Exams: Each week (see schedule below), an online quiz will be posted in the "Assignments" folder of Blackboard. This quiz will consist of multiple choice, multiple answer, matching, true and false, and fill in the blank questions over materials from the previous week. You will be allowed to use your class notes, textbook, and any information that I post on Blackboard to answer the questions. I ask only that you work alone. Each quiz will be posted on Friday before midnight and will be removed the following Friday at midnight. Each Study Buddy Quiz will be worth 10 points, for a total of 120 points. NO STUDY BUDDY GRADE WILL BE DROPPED FOR ANY REASON. If you have difficulty accessing a Study Buddy quiz (IT problems, etc.) you must let me know during the period of seven days in which it is available. If you fail to complete a Study Buddy because of IT problems, you will not under any circumstance be able to access it once it is taken offline. Therefore, I suggest that you access the Study Buddy early in the week in which it is open, and complete it as soon as you can during that week. I also suggest that you make a pdf of each Study Buddy before you submit it, so you can use it to study later.

Study Buddies will be open for completion at the following times:

~~Study Buddy 1: Sep 1-8~~

Study Buddy 1: Sep 8-15

Study Buddy 2: Sep 15-22

Study Buddy 3: Sep 22-29

Study Buddy 4: Sep 29-Oct 6

Study Buddy 5: Oct 6-13

Study Buddy 6: Oct 13-20

Study Buddy 7: Oct 20-27

Study Buddy 8: Oct 27-Nov 3

Study Buddy 9: Nov 3-10

Study Buddy 10: Nov 10-17

Study Buddy 11: Nov 17-Dec 1

PackBack Participation: Packback provides a platform to explore material beyond the classroom. The purpose is to identify what you may be curious about, and to assist classmates in satisfying their curiosity. Every week, you will be required to post one question, and two answers to questions that students have already posted. You will receive 2 points for each answer and 1 point for each question. You are of course

welcome to participate beyond that. Packback may also be used as a source for extra credit. Stay tuned on that. See Appendix One for ground rules and guidelines for using Packback. Pack back participation grades will strictly be assigned based on weekly intervals spanning Sunday at midnight to Sunday on midnight. In other words, one week's participation won't ever be counted toward a different week, even if you post more than one question and two answers.

Packback grading periods

Week 1: Sep 3-10

Week 2: Sep 10-17

Week 3: Sep 17-24

Week 4: Sep 24-Oct1

Week 5: Oct 1-8

Week 6: Oct 8-15

Week 7: Oct 15-22

Week 8: Oct 22-29

Week 9: Oct 29-Nov 5

Week 10: Nov 5-12

Week 11: Nov 12-19

Week 12: Nov 19-Dec 3

You will be receiving an email invitation to register for Packback. The cost of registration is \$18.

Lecture Attendance: The University requires that roll be taken but there will be no attendance grade. Nevertheless, you should probably show up if you want to do well.

Lecture extra credit: While I retain the right to assign extra credit, I usually don't. Therefore, you should focus on *credit*. If extra credit assignments are given, they will be given during class. Those who do not attend class will not be sent an e-mail, nor will extra credit assignments and their due dates be posted to Blackboard. **No extra credit will be allowed to any student that is not offered to the entire class, for any reason.**

Lecture exam review: In past experience, allocating a class period for exam review does not significantly improve exam grades, but rather encourages students to wait until the end of a section to begin preparing for the exam. There will be no such review session for any exam. **Make sure that you keep up with the material throughout the semester.**

Academic Dishonesty: Any violation of University Policy regarding academic integrity will minimally result in an "F" for the semester.

Schedule of lecture topics

Topic	Assigned Reading
The Scientific Method as a Process of Discovery	none
The Plant Cell and the Cell Cycle (Mitosis): Emergent Properties 1	Ch. 3
Cells and Tissues of the Plant Body: Emergent Properties 2	Ch.23
The Root: Structure and Development	Ch.24
The Parasitic Plant Revolution: Notes from the Underground	none
The Shoot: Primary Structure and Development	Ch.25
Secondary Growth in Roots and Stems	Ch. 23, 26
The Flow of Energy	Ch. 5
Photosynthesis	Ch. 7
Respiration	Ch. 6
The Carbon Cycle and Global Climate Change	none
A Frank and Open Discussion: Sexual Reproduction and Heredity	Ch. 8
The Process of Evolution	Ch. 9
Systematics: The Science of Biological Diversity	Ch. 10
Plant Origins	none
Non-vascular Plants	Ch.16
Seedless Vascular Plants	Ch.17
Seed Plants: The Gymnosperms	Ch.18
Seed Plants: The Angiosperms	Ch.19
The Abominable Mystery	Ch.20

Holidays/Important Dates

Monday, September 4: Labor day. No class.

Friday, September 8: Last day to drop without a "Q" and receive 100% refund.

Wednesday, November 22 – Friday, November 24: Thanksgiving break. No Class.

Friday, November 11: Last day to drop with a Q

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

[Dean of Student's Office](#)

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY:

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20...." A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

[/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf](#)

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM:

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

Appendix 1: Using Packback

Participation is a requirement for this course, and the Packback Questions platform will be used for online discussion about class topics. Packback Questions is an online curiosity community where you can be fearlessly curious and ask BIG questions about how what we're studying relates to life and the real world.

Your participation on Packback will count towards 60 points (>10%) of your final grade.

To receive your points per week, you must post 1 Question and 2 Answers per week **relevant to our class subject matter**.

Before you start posting, be sure to read the [Community Guidelines](#) found in the tutorial on Packback. If your post doesn't follow the Packback Community Guidelines, there is a chance it will be removed and you won't receive points for that post.

There will be a Sunday 11:59 PM deadline for submissions in your community each week.

Each week, we will spend time in class highlighting discussions from Packback, encouraging feedback and recognizing top students!

To start posting on Packback Questions:

1. Navigate to <https://Packback.co/questions> and click "Register as a new student".
Note: If you already have an account on Packback you can login with your credentials.
2. Make sure to register with your SCHOOL email address and real first name and last name.
3. Enter our class community's access code into the "Join a new Community" module on your dashboard.

Our Community access code: **CF4279B6-54B8-DCE1-7691-CF333DBB1E5A**

4. Follow the instructions on your screen to finish your registration.

For a brief introduction to Packback Questions and why we are using it in class, watch this video: vimeo.com/packback/Welcome-to-Packback-Questions