

BIOL 120N Plants, Places, and People (GN, US/IL)

Spring 2020

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General Education Learning Objectives: can be accessed [here](#)

Course Learning Objectives:

- To explore the world of plants, particularly those that have propped up or supported human civilizations in important ways
- To gain a basic understanding of plant anatomy with focus on anatomical traits that were desired by humans for their use
- To understand how plants grow, live, and reproduce
- To compare and contrast traditional vs. modern ways of domesticating crops and producing plant-based products
- To explore plant use by humans historically and globally using agriculture, food, and medicine, as examples beginning with the first humans and ending in modern day
- To consider how plants are being used for sustainability purposes, including as biofuels and for green architecture and environmental clean-up
- To communicate about the science and historical importance of plants in society, in written form using evidence-based approaches to support arguments
- To collaborate with peers to teach classmates in an effective and engaging manner

Weekly Expectations For the Course:

1. (3-4 hours) Read course material, watch videos, take notes, and participate in discussion forums in your weekly modules.
2. (2-3 hours) Complete a homework assignment that will either involve a video or some reading followed by some guiding questions.
3. (40 minutes) Take a 20 question, timed exam on the material you explored every two weeks in the course (Last Day of Weeks 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13).
4. A group project will be due the Friday of week 11 with the assignment load reduced in the week leading up to it. Parts of the project will be built earlier in the course as well.

Group Plant Lessons Based On Your Plant From Your Book:

The goal is for each plant book group to create 40 minute Wikipage style lessons that are engaging and include important stories as to why your particular plant is/was so useful to human civilizations. These lessons will be due by the end of week 11. Use my

CANVAS lessons as models, but feel free to be creative and teach however you think will be engaging and informative.

For a complete overview of this project, [click here](#).

Course Schedule: Our weekly course schedule for the semester can be accessed [here](#).

Required Course Material:

- Access to internet to view and watch course materials on CANVAS. It is your responsibility to have internet access in an online course, with free internet availability at certain coffeehouses and the public library if you have connectivity issues at some point during the semester.
- After selecting your plant group at the end of week #1, purchase one [plant book](#), which will be discussed in your groups and used as a resource to develop a lesson based on that plant for your classmates to engage with later in the course.

Course Grading:

Assignment	# of Assignments	Total Points	% of Course Grade
Syllabus Quiz, Examity Set-Up, Academic Integrity Statement and Divy Book Discussion Forum	4 @ 2 or 3 pts	10	2%
Homework: Individual Essays	6 @ 15 pts	90	15%
Homework: Group WikiPages	2 @ 20 pts	40	6%
Discussion Forum Participation	11 @ 10 pts	110	18%
Exams	5 @ 40 pts 1 @ 50 pts	250	42%
Group Plant Book Teaching Lesson + Group Peer Review	80 20	100	17%
TOTAL POINTS		600	100%

Late Policy:

Since you are given a full week to complete each module, at your convenience, late assignments will not be tolerated. Starting after the drop/add (Week 2), quizzes and

discussion forums will close each Monday at 11:59 PM ET with no opportunity for make-ups without a University-recognized excuse. Homework assignments will be docked - 25% in the first 24 hours of being late, -50% in the next 48 hours of being late, and then will receive a zero for anything later than that. [Penn State University recognized excuses for absence \(Links to an external site.\)](#) include appropriate documentation from a doctor or other Pennsylvania State University recognized reasons, such as a religious holiday or participation as an athlete in a D1 sports event.

Assignment of Final Grades:

Exams are 42% of your course grade and participation, homework, and projects are 58% of your course grade.

Final grades will be calculated from your earned grades in the course, with no curve as follows:

A = 92.0-100 A- = 90.0-91.9 B+ = 88.0-89.9 B = 82.0-87.9 B- = 80.0-81.9 C+ = 78.0-79.9 C = 70.0-77.9 D = 60-69.9.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. Academic integrity is a basic guiding principle for all academic activity at The Pennsylvania State University, and all members of the University community are expected to act in accordance with this principle. Consistent with this expectation, the University's Code of Conduct states that all students should act with personal integrity, respect other students' dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts.

Academic integrity includes a commitment by all members of the University community not to engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation, plagiarism, or deception. Such acts of dishonesty violate the fundamental ethical principles of the University community and compromise the worth of work completed by others. For more information on academic integrity at Penn State, please [click here \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

Turnitin, which is an online tool that scans assignments for evidence of plagiarism, will be used in this course. It is set up so that you can submit your assignment and will immediately (or close to it) receive feedback as to whether or not you are paraphrasing your work to an appropriate degree. You may then correct and resubmit your assignment before the due date if you think you should.

Disabilities Accommodation Statement:

Penn State welcomes students with disabilities into the University's educational programs. Every Penn State campus has an office for students with disabilities. Student Disability Resources (SDR) website provides [contact information for every Penn State campus \(Links to an external site.\)](#). For further information, please visit [Student Disability Resources website \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, you must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: [See documentation guidelines \(Links to an external site.\)](#). If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus disability services office will provide you with an accommodation letter. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early as possible. You must follow this process for every semester that you request accommodations.

Report Bias:

Penn State takes great pride to foster a diverse and inclusive environment for students, faculty, and staff. Acts of intolerance, discrimination, or harassment due to age, ancestry, color, disability, gender, gender identity, national origin, race, religious belief, sexual orientation, or veteran status are not tolerated and can be reported through Educational Equity via the [Report Bias webpage \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

Counseling Services at Penn State:

Many students at Penn State face personal challenges or have psychological needs that may interfere with their academic progress, social development, or emotional well-being. The university offers a variety of confidential services to help you through difficult times, including individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, consultations, online chats, and mental health screenings. These services are provided by staff who welcome all students and embrace a philosophy respectful of clients' cultural and religious backgrounds, and sensitive to differences in race, ability, gender identity and sexual orientation.

[Counseling and Psychological Services at University Park \(CAPS\) \(Links to an external site.\)](#): 814-863-0395

Counseling and Psychological Services [Commonwealth Campuses \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Penn State Crisis Line (24 hours/7 days/week): 877-229-6400

Crisis Text Line (24 hours/7 days/week): Text LIONS to 741741