

BIOL 120N

Plants, Places, and People

Sample Syllabus

Description

This course is designed to introduce you to the discipline of plant biology and increase your awareness and appreciation of the impact of plants on your daily lives. The first part of the course will present the fundamentals of botany to provide you with a basic understanding of plant form and function. The rest of the course will be devoted to a survey of historical, cultural, and economic aspects of botany and related fields. We will finish up with an examination of the role of plants as an integral part of the world's ecosystem.

Objective

The purpose of Biology 120 is to introduce you to the fascinating world of plants with an emphasis on the historical, cultural, and economic uses.

Textbook

Levetin and McMahon, Plants and Society, 6th edition, McGraw-Hill.
ISBN: 9780073524221

Course Schedule

Week	Topic
1	Plants in Life and in History
2	Plant Anatomy and Physiology
3	Plant Genetics, Systematics, and Diversity
4	Plants and Dietary Needs

5	Grasses and Legumes
6	Starches and Carbohydrates: Feeding the Hungry World
7	Plant Fibers and Wood Products
8	A Foray into the Fungi
9	Herbs, Spices, Essential Oils, and Medicinal Plants
10	Poisonous and Psychoactive Plants
11	Stimulating Plant Beverages
12	Plants and the Environment

Grading

Type	Points	Percentage
3 Exams	200 each	40% of final grade
12 Lesson Assignments	75	60% of final grade

Proctor Information

You will need to secure a proctor in order to take exams in this course. A proctor will not automatically be assigned to you; rather, you must make the necessary contacts to secure a professional who will serve in this capacity.

1. Contact a person who meets the qualifications and ask him or her to proctor your exam.
2. Student Services must approve your proctor before any exams can be taken. Please see instructions for [securing a suitable proctor](#) . While many proctors will serve on a voluntary basis, you are responsible for paying any expenses incurred in retaining a proctor.
3. You must submit your proctor for approval or schedule your exams at a testing center using our online proctored exam portal. You will need to enter your proctor's contact information and submit proctor verification documentation. Note: If your proctor has been

previously approved by the World Campus during a prior course within two years, you do not need to obtain verification. World Campus retains proctor information on file for two years. To learn more about using the online portal, visit the World Campus website "[Using the Proctored Exam Portal](#) ."

4. If your proctor does not meet the required specifications, Student Services will notify you within 5 to 7 business days.
5. If you are a graduating senior requesting a final exam, please see additional information about early deadlines for course completion and exam scheduling.
6. Contact [Student Services](#) if you cannot take a scheduled exam.
7. Unless you have received permission to take your exam at an alternative time, your proctor will only allow you to take the exam during dates specified in your course.

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 or deception. Such acts of dishonesty violate the fundamental ethical principles of the University community and compromise the worth of work completed by others.

Accommodating Disabilities

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

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](#) . 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.

Counseling and Psychological Services

Many students at Penn State face personal challenges or have psychological needs that may interfere with their academic progress, social development, or emotional wellbeing. 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 \(CAPS\)](#): 814-863-0395
- [Counseling and Psychological Services at Commonwealth Campuses](#)
- Penn State Crisis Line (Available 24 hrs, 7 days a week): 877-229-6400
- Crisis Text Line (Available 24 hrs, 7 days a week): Text LIONS to 741741

Educational Equity / 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 website](#).