

Lab Syllabus

PLSCI 2013: Mushrooms, Molds and More Chase G. Mayers & Kathie T. Hodge – 3 credits

If you're in PLSCI 2013, Mushrooms, Molds and More, then not only will you attend the same lectures as students who take PLSCI 2010 (and get the same benefits; fun lectures! stimulating readings!) – you'll also attend a weekly 50-minute lab where you'll learn how to work hands-on with fungi with help from our fabulous Shroom Squad. You'll get to learn MORE about the fungi that affect our lives. You'll be an experimental mycologist, exploring the ways we work with fungi to understand their abilities and diversity.

This syllabus only covers information for the weekly 50-minute lab portion of the course. For information about the lecture component, see the PLSCI2010/PLSCI2013 Lecture Syllabus.

LOCATION

Labs are held in **326 Plant Science**.

LAB SECTIONS

Section 201

Wednesdays 9:05am–9:55am

Graduate TA: Jocelyn Schwartz, jas975@cornell.edu

Undergraduate TA: Marian Decker, mld242@cornell.edu

Section 202

Wednesdays 10:10am–11:00am

Graduate TA: Jocelyn Schwartz, jas975@cornell.edu

Undergraduate TA: Kent Grass-Valdivia, kfg29@cornell.edu

Section 203

Wednesdays 11:15am–12:05pm

Graduate TA: Kaitlin Diggins, krd78@cornell.edu

Undergraduate TA: Jason Schlotzhauer, jms927@cornell.edu

Section 204

Fridays 9:05am–9:55am

Graduate TA: Kaitlin Diggins, krd78@cornell.edu

Undergraduate TA: Akiva Mohebban, am2687@cornell.edu

Section 205

Fridays 10:10am–11:00am

Graduate TA: Hana Barrett, hdb52@cornell.edu

Undergraduate TA: Gracey Brouillard, gab238@cornell.edu

Section 206

Fridays 11:15am–12:05pm

Graduate TA: Hana Barrett, hdb52@cornell.edu

Undergraduate TA: Peri Cooper, poc9@cornell.edu

Laboratory Coordinator: Dr. Chase G. Mayers, cgm227@cornell.edu

Contact your TAs with specific questions about your lab.

For general questions about the lab component of the course, contact Dr. Mayers.

For questions about the whole class (lecture & lab), contact magicalmushrooms@cornell.edu.

Do first check the **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** pages on the lecture and lab Canvas sites, which are updated throughout the semester.

GRADING

Your lab grade will contribute 34% of your final, overall grade for PLSCI 2013. The other 66% will come from your final lecture grade, and is explained in the separate PLSCI 2010/2013 Lecture Syllabus.

Your lab grade will be determined as follows:

Attendance (10 labs; 2 are dropped)	20%
Quizzes (8 quizzes; 2 are dropped)	30%
Group Presentation Project	50%

ATTENDANCE POLICY

As a hands-on laboratory that relies on teamwork, **attendance is mandatory**. However, we have a generous policy for misses! Attendance is taken at the beginning and end of class. Absence at either time, or extended absences between them, counts as an absence. **Two absences are allowed without penalty, no questions asked.** Illnesses, job interviews, conferences, car trouble, etc. all count as absences.

Absences beyond two begin to negatively impact your grade. A *single* makeup opportunity will be offered near the end of the semester to students **with three or more absences only**. Further absences *cannot* be made up; we only have 10 labs, so missing 4 means you've missed 40% of the material.

LAB QUIZZES

Starting the week of Lab 2, look for weekly reading/video assignments in the **Weekly Lab Materials** Module in Canvas. Read or watch those assignments before class. A Lab Quiz is given in person at the beginning of your lab section, and answers will be discussed in lab immediately after. Lab Quizzes cannot be taken late if you arrive after the quiz has been given and missed quizzes cannot be made up. However, **only your best 6 quiz grades are considered** toward your course grade. There is no quiz in Lab 1, and no quiz in Lab 10, so we plan to have 8 quizzes.

GROUP PRESENTATION PROJECT

Working in a small group of three or four, you'll select a topic and develop an informational poster presentation about fungi. A detailed assignment will be provided a few weeks into the semester. The project will help you polish oral and visual communication skills, practice conducting primary research, and become familiar with discerning credible sources of scientific information. Group work is conducted outside of class and is student-organized. The Presentation Project contributes 50% of your lab grade, and includes a **Topic Proposal** (5 pts), an **Outline** (15 pts), and a **Final Presentation** (30 pts; includes TA, Peer, and Group Assessment). For Lab 10, you will hang your posters on display in Mann Library, and we will have a poster viewing/sharing session together. More information will be posted to Canvas.

LAB POLICIES AND DATES

You may only attend the lab section in which you are enrolled. Labs cannot be made up when missed (but see our attendance policy above.) Food and drink are not allowed in the lab. Jackets, backpacks, and other personal items must be hung on the hallway hooks; they cannot be stored in the lab.

	Dates		
Lab #	Wednesday Sections	Friday Sections	Lab Activity
-	Jan 24	Jan 26	No labs during the first week of class.
1	Jan 31	Feb 2	Air Plates Part 1, Mushroom Media Part 1
2	Feb 7	Feb 9	Dung Fungi, Air Plates Part 2, Mushroom Media Part 2
-	Feb 14	Feb 16	No labs because Demo One is Feb 15, 16, and 19 (see lecture syllabus).
3	Feb 21	Feb 23	Mold Control (<i>Poster Project Introduced</i>)
4	Feb 28	Mar 1	Koch's Postulates (<i>Approved Poster Topic Due</i>)
5	Mar 6	Mar 8	Powdery Mildew
6	Mar 13	Mar 15	Koch's Postulates Revisited
-	Mar 20	Mar 22	No labs because Demo Two is Mar 21, 22, and 25 (see lecture syllabus).
7	Mar 27	Mar 29	Science of Bread Making (<i>Poster Outline Due</i>)
-	Apr 3	Apr 5	No labs because of Spring Break.
8	Apr 10	Apr 12	Mushroom Identification
9	Apr 17	Apr 19	Lichens
-	Apr 24	Apr 26	No labs because Demo Three is Apr 25, 26, and 29 (see lecture syllabus). (<i>Digital Poster Draft Due</i>)
10	May 1	May 3	Group Presentations and Evaluation (<i>Poster must be printed</i>)