A quick look into what this coming year will look like for the

OEB 54 course, Biology of Fungi.

This course explores the fascinating diversity of the kingdom fungi, including evolution, ecology and morphology. All of the major groups of fungi, from smuts to molds, will be included. Students will use a variety of techniques to learn about these organisms and their activities.

Scroll down to view course information below the video.

Course Information

Term: 2020 Fall / Full Term

Course Instructor: Donald Pfister (dpfister@oeb.harvard.edu)

Teaching Fellow: Jacob Suissa (jsuissa@g.harvard.edu), Office Hours: Tuesday's 9-10am EST link under the Zoom tab

Meeting Time: Tuesday 01:30 PM - 02:45 PM; Thursday 01:30 PM - 02:45 PM on Zoom

Labs/Discussions: Tuesday's following lecture

Textbook: Fifth Kingdom: An Introduction to Mycology, 4th Edition. (Kendrick; 2017).

Course Description and Requirements:

OEB 54 Course Description and Requirement (PDF)

Syllabus:

OEB 54 Weekly Plan at a Glance (PDF)

Labs:

OEB 54 Lab Documents - Draft (PDF)

Notes:

Because we are working away from the lab the course has been modified to allow for the study of fungi wherever you may be. We will provide a laboratory kit for you to use at home. This will not be the same as working in the lab at Harvard but it is intended to offer you the chance to experiment and observe what is around you. You will attempt to grow some fungi. You will learn about identification and most of all you will realize that the organisms in the kingdom Fungi are all around us and perform many functions in the ecosystem and in our lives. They cause diseases of plants and animals but they also are critical to plant growth, they cycle nutrients to support ecosystem health, they are critical to industrial processes and to the activities in our kitchens.

Fungi are highly complex in their morphology and this contributes to their beauty and fascination. I hope you will join us in studying fungi at home. Throughout the course we will have special guest presentations to bring these topics into focus, for example, the biology of sourdough and of making ginger beer. We will support you in this endeavor by by having weekly sessions to discuss and observe together. There is a weekly laboratory, and several afternoon field trips are required (dates to be announced).

Please view the course description and requirements for more details.

Grading at a glance

Participation 20%
Midterm 20%
Class project/Fungus Fair 40%
Take home final exam 20%