Nature of Course and Student Learning Outcomes

Welcome to General Botany! This is a survey of life characteristics of the plant-like and fungi-like protists, plants, and fungi. The learning outcomes for this course include:

1. Identification of the cells, tissues, and organs that make up a multicellular plant body.
2. Explanation of how structures are related to function and how they allow organisms to carry on fundamental life processes in different environments.
3. Determination of the major characteristics of the phyla (=divisions) of plant-like and fungi-like protists and the plant and fungi kingdoms.
4. Investigation of the relatedness among these groups and their major evolutionary pathways,
5. Discussion of the importance of plants and fungi in human ecology.

Assessment of Learning Outcomes

The learning outcomes listed above will be assessed using individual performances on lecture and lab quizzes, and related questions on exams.

Textbook and Support Materials

Textbook


Blackboard: [http://blackboard.angelo.edu](http://blackboard.angelo.edu)

Blackboard will be used extensively in this course; you are enrolled in two botany Blackboard courses: Botany Lecture and Botany Lab. Go to your botany blackboard courses TODAY and check out the resources available. You may change your email in Blackboard from your ASU email; however, be aware that Blackboard issues are fewer when you use your ASU account.

Assessments and Grades

Lecture Quizzes and Homework (100 points)

Several homework assignments will be given during the semester; most of these will be administered on Blackboard. A due date and time will be posted with each assignment; you must complete each assignment before the deadline. Unless directed otherwise, you may use your textbook and lecture notes on quizzes; however, you are not allowed to work with another student or get any form of help from another person. At the end of the semester the total number of points you earned on quizzes and assignments will be summed and divided by the total possible points and then this value multiplied by 100. You will have one opportunity during the last week of classes to complete a homework assignment that can add points to your final homework grade. No make-ups will be given on quizzes.
Lecture Exams (400 or 500 points)

There will be four lecture exams: exams 1-4 will be a combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, true/false, and short answer questions. Exams 1-4 are each worth 100 points. In addition, you will have the option of taking a multiple-choice comprehensive exam (Exam 5) that is also worth 100 points; the grade on this exam can be used to replace your lowest exam score and, if beneficial to your final lecture average, can be used in calculating your average. If your grade on Exam 5 is lower than your scores on exam 1-4, the grade will not replace another exam grade nor will it impact your average. Questions for each exam will be taken from lectures and from reading assignments. You will need a #2 pencil for each exam.

- No make-up exams will be given.
- If you miss one of the first four exams, you must take Exam #5. Your grade on Exam #5 will replace the 0 for the missed exam. For example, if your exam scores for exams 1-4 are 90, 0, 80, 70 and you make a 75 on Exam #5, the 0 will become a 75.
- You will only be allowed to "make-up" one exam during the semester by substituting it with a grade from Exam #5.

Post Exam Reviews Exams 1-3

After each examination, I will schedule a time outside of class to discuss the questions on the exam. During the review you will have an opportunity to check my calculations in determining your grade, get guidance as to how to evaluate and answer questions, and clarify your understanding of information covered on the exam. You are NOT permitted to record/copy the questions. However, I will keep the exams on file in my office and you may make an appointment with me to study them.

Lab Practicals (300 points)

There will be a total of 300 points from three 100-point lab practicals (see lab schedule). All practicals will begin at 2:00 during your regularly scheduled lab period. In cases of an excused university absence or illness you must contact me prior to your scheduled lab practice to make arrangements for a make-up, otherwise, no make-up will be available. The only opportunity this semester to take a lab practical make-up is Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday during the week of the lab practical.

Pre-Lab Assignments and Quizzes (+50 extra point opportunity)

Pre-lab reading assignments and a pre-lab quiz will be posted the week prior to each scheduled lab. The purpose of these are to provide you with background material that will help you understand the lab topic better and work more effectively during the scheduled labs. The pre-lab quizzes are not required; however, if you take ALL of the pre-lab quizzes and have a 70% or higher average on your final pre-lab quiz average, you will earn 50 points added to your total lab points (see additional information under Lab Grade). NOTE: you are NOT allowed to take a pre-lab quiz with any form of help from another student. To obtain help, in any form, from another student is dishonest and will be dealt with as such.
Post-Lab Quizzes (100 points)
Another 100 points will be based on an average of 10 individual 100-point post lab quizzes. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of lab (2:00) in CAV123; no make-ups will be given nor will questions be repeated for latecomers. At least twelve post-lab quizzes will be given; your ten best scores will be used to compute your average.

Attendance and Participation
I will take roll each class period. I expect you to be present and on time for all classes and labs. I also expect you to be an active participant in every class. If you have perfect attendance in both lecture and lab, I will add one point to your final course average. If I see that you are working on homework for another class, studying for another course, or using an electronic device for purposes other than botany, I will ask you to leave the classroom or lab.

Final Course Grade Calculation
The scores you earn during the semester and the following chart will determine your course grade. You will have numerous opportunities to improve your grade during the semester (i.e. bonus lecture quiz points, two lowest lab quiz grades dropped, attendance point, bonus lab points, replace an exam grade with a higher Exam #5 grade). Take advantage of every opportunity to improve your grade during the semester because no extra credit work or points will be given to individual students nor will a curve be used to calculate final grades.

Summary of grades for course grade calculation:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Lecture} & \\
\text{Exam 1} &= 100 \\
\text{Exam 2} &= 100 \\
\text{Exam 3} &= 100 \\
\text{Exam 4} &= 100 \\
\text{Exam 5} &= 100 \\
\text{Homework average} &= 100 \\
\text{Total Lecture Points} &= 500 \text{ or } 600
\end{align*}
\]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Number of Points</th>
<th>Grade Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>89.5-100</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>79.5-89.4</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>69.5-79.4</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>59.5-69.4</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59.4 and below</td>
<td>Failure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grades for both lecture and lab will be posted on Blackboard. You can calculate your grade any time during the semester. To calculate your points and grade standing, take your score for each of the exams and sum them. Then divide the sum by the total number of possible points available at that time in the semester. Since lecture credit is worth three semester credit hours, it will account for 75% of your final course grade. To determine this, take your lecture average and multiple it by 0.75; this will show your final lecture points. Lab credit for the course is one sch
and will count for 25% of your course grade. Again, first determine your lab average and then multiply the average by 0.25 to represent 25% of your grade. Add the lab percentage and the lecture percentage together and use the grade scale above to determine your grade.

**Dishonorable Conduct**

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Any instances of cheating or other forms of dishonesty will result in an automatic 0 on the activity involved (if you have any question concerning what constitutes dishonest behavior, ask me before engaging in the behavior). Based upon my interpretation of the seriousness of your indiscretion, you may face additional disciplinary action. It is your responsibility to display proper behavior so that you will be held above reproach. You are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is available online at [http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/](http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/)

**American Disability Act**

Persons with disabilities that may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request and implement academic accommodations. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made as soon as possible.

**Religious Holy Day**

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

**Use of Electronic Devices**

You may use a computer/tablet/cell phone during lecture presentations and during lab exercises; however, while in botany it must be used only for botany related activities. Display of any electronic device during an exam, lab quiz, or lab practical will result in a grade of zero on the activity. If you wish, you may use an iPod/mpg during lab; however, before using such a device consider how this may impede your collaboration with other students which can be an important learning aid in lab.

**Office Visits**

My office is CAV127B (telephone 486-6656). My office hours are: M 11am-1pm; T 11am-noon; Wed. 9:30am-noon and by appointment. You may also reach me via e-mail: Bonnie.Amos@angelo.edu. Please come see me if you have any questions or problems - or just to get acquainted.