Office hours: Email me when you have questions or problems.
E-mail: bonnie.amos@angelo.edu

Course Description: This is a survey of life characteristics of the plant-like and fungi-like protists, plants, and fungi.

Student Learning Outcomes: The learning outcomes for this course include:

• Identification of the cells, tissues, and organs that make up a multicellular plant or fungus body.
• Explanation of how structures are related to function and how they allow organisms to carry on fundamental life processes in different environments.
• Determination of the major characteristics of the phyla (=divisions) of plant-like and fungi-like protists in the Kingdom Protista and the characteristics of members of the Kingdom Plantae, and Kingdom Fungi (Myxomycota).
• Investigation of the relatedness among these groups and their major evolutionary pathways.
• Recognition of the importance of plants and fungi in human ecology.

Meeting Time and Place: No face-to-face meetings can be scheduled; because of the pandemic Angelo State classrooms and labs are officially closed. Both Lecture and Lab will be online only. However, we will have at least one weekly meeting via Collaborate. I will schedule one a week but more are available. Let me know when you have questions so I can schedule more.


Final Grade: There will be two components to the final grade. The lecture grade will be determined by an average of four lecture exams along with the average of homework assignments. The lab average will be based on scores for three lab practices and the average of your ten best post lab quiz scores. Lecture will count for 75% of your final grade (final average x 0.75) and lab will contribute 25% of your grade (final average x 0.25). The two percentages will be summed to determine the course grade. Grades will be assigned based on the following scale: 89.5-100%=A, 79.5-89.4%=B, 69.5-79.4%=C, 59.5-69.4%=D, below 59.4%=F. No exceptions.

Lecture Instruction: Lectures are delivered via PowerPoint presentations with audio recordings, accompanied by study guides, homework quizzes, videos, worksheets, and links to helpful web sites. All are available on Blackboard Lecture.

Homework Assignments: Quizzes will be assigned for each lecture topic. The purpose of the homework assignments is to provide you an opportunity to test your understanding of lecture information before each exam. You may take each quiz three times; your highest score will be recorded. You are NOT allowed to use any form of assistance when taking the quizzes. You must take each quiz via Respondus LockDown Browser and Webcam. Your homework average will be equivalent to one lecture exam grade.
Lecture Exams: Exams 1-4 will be a combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and true/false questions. Exams 1-4 are each worth 100 points. You have the option of taking an Optional Comprehensive Final Exam which is also worth 100 points; the grade on this exam can be used to replace your lowest exam score among Lecture Exams 1-3; your grade on Exam 4 cannot be replaced. If your grade on the optional comprehensive exam is lower than your scores on exams 1-3, the grade will not replace another exam grade nor will it be used in your final grade calculations. Questions for each exam will be taken from lectures, homework assignments, and from supplemental learning tools (i.e. videos, reading assignments, worksheets). You must take each exam using Respondus LockDown Browser and WebCam.

No make-up exams will be given. If you miss one of the first three exams, you must take the Optional Comprehensive Final Exam. Your grade on the comprehensive exam will replace the 0 for the missed exam. For example, if your exam scores for exams 1-3 are 90, 0, 70 and you make a 75 on the Comprehensive Exam 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 the comprehensive final exam. If you miss Exam 4 you will get a zero; this grade cannot be replaced.

Lab Instruction: Labs will consist of self-paced exercises available on Blackboard Lab. Before each lab you have two assignments: read/study a Blackboard pre-lab exercise (required) and take a quiz over the pre-lab exercise (optional). All labs scheduled for each week will be available on the Friday before the week of the scheduled labs. Due date and time for each quiz is posted on the lab schedule.

Lab Practicals: There will be a total of 300 points from three 100-point lab practicals. All lab practicals will be based on information and images presented in the posted labs and information from the pre-lab assignments (see schedule). Lab Practicals will be administered using Respondus LockDown Browser and WebCam.

Pre-lab Reading Assignments, Pre-lab Quizzes, Lab Extra Credit: You may take each pre-lab quiz as many times as you wish; your highest grade will be recorded. The purpose of these are to provide you with background information that will help you understand the lab better. 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 which will be added to your total lab points (i.e. before the average calculation). NOTE: you are NOT allowed to take a pre-lab quiz with any form of help from another student; this is dishonest and will be dealt with as such.

Post-Lab Quizzes: Another 100 points will be based on an average of 10 individual 100-point post lab quizzes. Post lab quizzes will be posted on Blackboard Lab the Friday before the scheduled lab. Twelve post-lab quizzes will be given; your ten best scores will be used to compute your average. You are not allowed to use any form of assistance on a Post Lab Quiz; you may take each quiz two times with your higher score recorded.

Participation: Summer school moves at an extremely fast pace. We will be covering lecture and lab information normally presented during a 15-week period in just 4 1/2 weeks. To succeed in summer school you MUST keep up with assignments.

Dishonorable Conduct: Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. 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/
I am going to be blunt here so there is less chance of misunderstanding. Since we are going to be using remote assessments this semester there will be opportunities for cheating. If you cheat and I learn about it, for the first infraction you will receive a zero on the assignment (no matter if it is a homework assignment, pre-lab quiz, post lab quiz, major exam, or lab practical). This will be a grade that cannot be dropped or replaced and the zero will be used in calculating your course grade. The next time, and each time afterwards, if I discover you cheated, the same consequences will be administered plus your final grade will be dropped a letter grade. Angelo State has recently implemented a mandated recording system for students who have displayed academic dishonesty. In addition to the grade loss, your name will be added to the "academic dishonesty roll". The purpose of this "roll" is to identify students who are chronic cheaters and will be dealt with them as such. My apologies to those of you who are honest.

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.

Philosophy: Teaching botany is extremely important to me for several reasons. One reason, as a botanist I find plants fascinating and I want everyone to know their awesomeness. Another reason is the critical, frightening situation happening on Earth. We are experiencing a biodiversity crisis often referred to as the sixth mass extinction. Plant extinction is twice that of all bird, mammal, and amphibian extinctions combined. And plant extinction is bad news for all species. Plants are the infrastructure of ecosystems; they are interdependent with other organisms and with one another. We don’t even have an understanding of all of the ways plants interact...but what we do know is mindboggling. Baba Dioum in 1968 summed up why I teach botany, "In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught."