

BIOL 3040: PLANTS AND CIVILIZATION

Syllabus—Fall 2017

INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. Michelle Grilley
Department of Biology
Utah State University

E-MAIL: through Canvas
PHONE: 435-232-6761
OFFICE HRS: by appointment

DESCRIPTION:

Biol 3040 is a depth life science course. By the end of this course you should have a basic understanding of plant biology and diversity. You will also learn how plants are used by people and how they have been and continue to be important to human society.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods) concerning plant biology and the importance of plants to human society.
- 2) Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, and theories concerning plant science and the importance of plants to human society.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Lectures and Handouts:

Recorded lectures and handouts of the slides used in the lectures are accessed through Canvas. Lectures are organized into weekly units. You may play the lectures at your convenience, but learning each week's material on the suggested schedule will help keep you on track to be prepared when each exam becomes available.

Text--optional:

Plants and Society, 6th edition. Authors: Estelle Levetin and Karen McMahon. ISBN: 978-0073524221 (Other editions would be okay, too.)

GRADING:

Grading for BIOL 3040 is based on exams and participation in an online discussions. Grades will be assigned as follows:

400 Total points = 360 (4 exams @ 90 pt each) + 40 (5 discussions @ 8 pt each)

<u>Points</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
370-400 (93-100%)	A
358-369 (90-92%)	A-
346-357 (87-89%)	B+
330-345 (83-86%)	B
318-329 (80-82%)	B-
306-317 (77-79%)	C+
290-305 (73-76%)	C
278-289 (70-72%)	C-
266-277 (67-69%)	D+
250-265 (63-66%)	D
238-249 (60-62%)	D-
0-237 (0-59%)	F

Exams

All exam questions will be written in multiple-choice format. Exams are not comprehensive-- each exam covers the material in one section of the course, as indicated in the Course Schedule. Exams must be proctored and will be open only during the specified exam dates unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor.

	<u>Total Points</u>	<u>Dates Available</u>
Exam 1	90	Sept. 21-Sept. 26
Exam 2	90	Oct. 18-Oct. 24
Exam 3	90	Nov. 16-Nov. 21
Exam 4	90	Dec. 7-Dec. 13

Online Discussions

The first discussion topic will be posted the first Friday of the semester, Sept. 1. Each topic will be open for 2 weeks. Every other Friday, a new topic will be posted. A meaningful contribution may earn you up to 8 points for each topic, up to a total of 40 points. A total of 7 topics will be posted. The full credit of 40 points may be earned with contributions to 5 of the 7 discussions.

OPTIONAL PAPER:

You will be allowed to replace one exam score by writing a term paper. The paper should be on a topic relevant to the class and needs to be approved by your instructor before you start.

Anyone who wants to write a term paper must let me know by Oct. 27. All papers are due by Dec. 8.

To receive full credit, the topic should be thoroughly discussed in your own voice with references and using proper English. Term papers must be at least 7 pages long, typed, double-spaced, size 12 font, 1 inch margins.

Please do not ask for any extra credit beyond this. If you want or need a certain grade, you should begin working the first day of the semester towards earning that grade based on stated course requirements.

SPECIAL NEEDS:

If you have a physical, medical, or learning disability that may impact your ability to carry out assigned course work, please contact the staff in the Disability Resource Center at 435-797-2444 or 800-259-2966 or 435-797-0740 (TTY) so that we may provide reasonable and appropriate accommodations. All information and documentation is confidential.

TO DROP OR ADD:

Students who choose not to continue the course are responsible for contacting USU to drop or withdraw. Failure to officially drop the course may result in an "F". If you miss work after the deadline to drop and have an acceptable reason (like hospitalization), you can petition for an "Incomplete", which will require you to finish the coursework by a deadline arranged with the instructor.

Biology 3040 Plants and Civilization Fall 2017 Schedule

DATE	LECTURE TOPIC	TEXTBOOK (optional)
Section 1		
Week 1	Introduction	Chapter 1
	Leaves and the Plant Body	Chapter 3
Week 2	Stems, Roots and Flowers	Chapters 3 and 5
	The Plant Life Cycle, Pollination and Seeds	Chapter 5 Chapter 6, pp. 85-92
Week 3	Fruits, Dispersal and Vegetative Reproduction	Chapter 6, pp. 85-92
	Plant Physiology	Chapter 4, pp. 48-52
Week 4	Plant Genetics and DNA	Chapter 7, pp. 108-116
Sept. 21-Sept. 26	Section 1 EXAM	
Section 2		
Week 5	Plant Genetics (continued)	Chapter 7, pp. 100-108
	Plant Classification and Collection	Chapter 8
Week 6	Plant Diversity	Chapter 9
	Useful Plant Families	none
Week 7	Useful Plant Families (continued)	none
Week 8	Origins of Agriculture/Feeding a Hungry World	Chapter 11
Oct. 18-Oct. 24	Section 2 EXAM	
Section 3		
Week 9	Origins of Agriculture/Feeding a Hungry World (continued)	Chapter 15
	Important Grasses	Chapter 12
Week 10	Important Grasses (continued)	
	Important Legumes	Chapter 13
Week 11	Starchy Staples	Chapter 14
	Stimulating Beverages	Chapter 16
Week 12	Spices and Herbs	Chapter 16
Nov. 16-Nov. 21	Section 3 EXAM	
Section 4		
Week 13	Ornamental and Fruit Trees	Chapter 6, pp 92-98
	Fermented Beverages	Chapter 24, pp. 425-440
Week 14	Cloth, Paper and Wood	Chapter 18
	Ethnobotany and Medicinal Plants	Chapter 19
Week 15	Ethnobotany and Medicinal Plants (continued)	
	Psychoactive Plants	Chapter 20
Dec. 7-Dec. 13	Section 4 EXAM	