

Botany 372 - Procedures and Grading, Fall 2009

Instructor: Dr. Theodore L. Esslinger Office: Rm 331, Stevens Hall

Class Web Site: www.ndsu.nodak.edu/instruct/esslinge/bot372

Course Description: A comparative survey of diversity in plants (Kingdom Plantae) and fungi (Kingdom Fungi). Study will emphasize the reproductive and vegetative morphology of these two kingdoms. The major groups and specific examples discussed in lecture will be given detailed study in the laboratory.

Course Objectives:

- g Become familiar with the broad diversity of plants and fungi occupying the earth's environment, including consideration of their impact on human activities
- g Study of the diversity and unity in reproductive morphology and vegetative anatomy of plants and fungi
- g Appreciation of the evolutionary relationships among major groups of plants and of fungi
- g Ability to recognize and identify the major groups of plants, and understand the rationale behind their classification
- g Ability to recognize and identify the major groups of fungi, and understand the rationale behind their classification

The lecture (M,W,F, 10:00 A.M., Stevens Hall 230) and the laboratory (Tues. or Wed., Stevens Hall 329) are totally integrated and cannot be taken separately. The textbook is Biology of Plants, 7th ed., by Raven, Evert, & Eichorn. Readings corresponding to lecture topics are assigned (see syllabus), with the hope that you will read them ahead of time. Whether or not you buy a copy of the textbook yourself, you are **required** to have access to a copy during **each** lab period, although you can share or borrow a copy if you wish. You are also required to purchase the lab manual which will guide you through all lab activities. The lab manual refers to figures and photographs in your textbook, which is why **you must have access to a text book AND bring it to lab with you each week**. At the class website, many other diagrams and illustrations for use in both lecture and lab will be made available. You should print these out ahead of time and bring them to both lab and lecture.

Unlike in the lecture, attendance will be taken in the lab sections. The lab periods are scheduled to last two hours and fifty minutes and, with few exceptions, the lab topics scheduled should take you very close to that long to complete. Since lab attendance is a necessary and integral part of understanding and learning the material in this course, poor attendance or frequent early departures will automatically lower your grade for the course.

Remember that the lab and lecture portion of the course are totally integrated and all the **major exams** and the **lab exams** will cover material from both the lecture and the laboratory. The weekly lab exams will be given at the **beginning** of your lab period each week, so you must arrive **on time**. Generally speaking, each week's exam will cover lab and lecture material from the previous week of classes – you will be informed of any major variance from this pattern. Because of the lab day off for Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving, lab exam #10 and #14 will be given during a Friday lecture period. The three major exams also include combined lab and lecture material, each covering approximately one-third of the semester's material.

Semester grades will be based on the 3 major exams of **100 points each** (see calendar for scheduled times) and 13 weekly exams, each worth **25 points**. Your single **lowest** weekly exam score will be dropped, leaving a total of 300 points possible from lab. Your final grade in this course will therefore be based on your percentage of the **total of 600 possible points**. This total number of points is final and is the same for everybody, and **EXTRA CREDIT WILL NOT BE GIVEN!** Start your "extra" work **now!** ASSIGNED LETTER GRADES WILL BE BASED ON A UNIVERSITY STANDARD 90-80-70-60 DISTRIBUTION. In other words, you need to achieve 90% or better of total points to be sure of receiving an A, 80% or better for a B, 70% or better for a C, and 60% or better for a D. You are responsible to save all of your quizzes and exam papers and to maintain records of all your scores.

No make-ups will be allowed for the weekly exams. Since you are allowed to drop one weekly exam score, any that you miss will be recorded as a zero and will be counted as your drop. **Make-ups for the Major Exams will not normally be allowed without a written medical excuse.** It is up to each of you to maintain communication with me regarding reasons for any absences.

Students with disabilities or other special needs that might require individual accommodations in this course are invited to share these concerns or requests with the instructor as soon as possible.

Academic Responsibility: All work in this course must be completed in a manner consistent with the NDSU University Senate Policy, section 335, Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct:

(<http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/policy/335.htm>)

Violation of this policy will result in your removal from this class.