

Botany 380 Plant Physiology

Fall Semester, 2006

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Class Meetings: 9:30-10:45 AM, Stevens 230

Prerequisites: Biology 150

Text: Taiz & Zeiger (2006), *Plant Physiology*, 4th ed., ISBN# 0-87893-856-7
<http://www.plantphys.net/>

Blackboard Gateway: Link on NDSU home page (<http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/>)

Course Objectives: Introductory Plant Physiology is a course intended to provide a broad overview of biochemical, molecular, and physiological processes in plants. The goal is for students to acquire a working knowledge of plant growth and metabolism, potentially forming the basis for continued study in the plant sciences.

Format: The course will utilize traditional lectures as well as group activities. During lecture, students are encouraged to offer questions or comments at any time. Lecture outlines, study aides, exam scores, grade distributions, and other course material will be available online using Blackboard. About one third of the class time will be dedicated to a variety of group activities designed to illustrate and reinforce key concepts in plant physiology.

Grading: Course grades will rely primarily on four examinations, each covering a general aspect of plant physiology. Exam format will be multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and moderate-length essay. Three exams will be offered during the semester and the fourth will be given along with a comprehensive final. Group exercises will have a corresponding product such as a worksheet or a short written paper. Worksheets will be the responsibility of each individual student within a group and papers will be group products with each group member receiving the same score. Group exercise topics will also be represented on exams.

Exams I-IV - 100 pts each
Comprehensive Final - 50 pts
Problems / Worksheets - 150 pts
Total - 600 pts

Letter grades will be assigned according to the percentage of points earned with respect to the total possible points. Grade cutoffs are determined using the class average and standard deviation as follows: Avg + SD = A/B cutoff, Avg = B/C cutoff, Avg - SD = C/D cutoff, Avg - (2*SD) = D/F cutoff. Grade cutoffs of 90, 80, 70, and 60% are guaranteed. Exams will be taken on the announced date. Make-up exams will only be allowed for previously excused absences or under emergency situations. Late group reports and worksheets will be deducted 20% for each day beyond the due date.

Special Needs: Any students who need special accommodations for learning or who have special needs are invited to share these concerns and requests with the instructor as soon as possible.

Academic Responsibility: All work in this course must be completed in a manner consistent with NDSU University Senate Policy, section 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct (<http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/policy/335.htm>).