

The World of Plants; PBIO 100 and 100L #05395, 05396, 05397
2:10 - 3:00 Winter 2006-2007

Instructor: Dr. Arthur Trese
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Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday, 3:00 – 4:00, or by appointment

Course web page: <https://blackboard.ohiou.edu/>

Username = Oak ID (two letters 6 numbers) Password = current OAK password

TEXT: The required text to read for the course is “*The Botany of Desire*” by Michael Pollan. However, the material in this book will not be the central focus of the course, and your reading of the topics in the book will be assessed with quizzes, separately from the main exams. The material you will be responsible for on the major exams will come only from the classroom lectures and assigned readings on the Blackboard site.

COURSE GOALS: *The World Of Plants* is offered within the TIER II course selection, under the grouping of Natural Sciences and Math. The goal of the Tier II system is to maintain a degree of General Education, or Liberal Arts, in your undergraduate program. This course intends to examine the intersection of science and society, with an emphasis on the role of plants. We will explore the pivotal role that plants play in the every day life of humans, and, conversely, the pivotal role that man has come to play in the health and survival of plants. I certainly do not intend to cover all of the ways in which we rely on plants for our survival and comfort, etc., but instead I will cover several important themes. A somewhat more detailed list of the topics to be covered in this class is found on the back of this sheet. I will also take the opportunity to cover some current issues in biology that are not strictly topics of plant biology, but that I feel you should know something about.

MISCELLANEOUS: There will be 2 midterm exams (100 points each) and a final (100 points). The exams are a mixture of essay questions (approximately 30% of points), short sentence answers, fill in the blank, matching, and multiple choice. There will also be a quiz for each of the four chapters of the text, each worth 10 points. You will be allowed to drop the lowest quiz grade of the four. Throughout the quarter I will request that you complete “in class” assignments, typically short responses to questions. These will generally be graded as “completed” or “absent”, and will be worth a total of 40 points for the quarter. I expect attendance at all class meetings. Attendance will count as part of your grade as explained below, but will be worth a total of 40 points. Therefore, your final grade will combine your top three quizzes (total of 30 possible points), in class assignments (40 points) three exams (300 points) and attendance (40 points) for a total possible of 410 points. Your final grade will be based upon a standard scale: A (92-100%), A- (90-91.9), B+ (88 –89.9), B (82– 87.9), B- (80-81.9), etc. A failing grade will be assigned if the final average is below 60%. Missed exams will not be made up without adequate proof of **legitimate** student absence as defined by the **University Handbook**. I will require a written, valid excuse from someone in authority relative to the situation. For example, if an examination is missed due to an illness, a note from the attending doctor would be required, stating that the nature of the illness would warrant missing class. If an examination is missed because of a death in the family, a note from someone in your family, providing a phone number, would be acceptable. Travel arrangements are not acceptable reasons for taking a makeup exam, or rescheduling your exam time. Cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting why an exam was missed, is a violation of academic honesty and will result in dismissal from the class with a grade of F. There will be several opportunities for extra credit in this course, involving activities outside of class. These will be announced during the quarter.

Attendance policy: Out of a possible 40 points

| | | |
|---------------|---|------------------|
| 0 missed days | = | 40 points (100%) |
| 1 missed day | | 38 (95%) |
| 2 | | 36 (etc.) |
| 3 | | 34 |
| 4 | | 32 |
| 5 | | 28 |
| 6 | | 24 |
| 7 | | 20 |
| >7 | | 0 |

EXPECTED LIST OF TOPICS TO BE COVERED

Week of:

- Jan. 3 Plants and global warming... what lies ahead and how can plants help?
- Jan. 8 Global issues of energy, plants, climate; personal choices
- Jan. 15 **Monday- Martin Luther King Day , no classes**
(Wednesday, January 17th, last day to drop a winter quarter class)
- Jan. 18 Quiz** over Chapter 2, Beauty, from *The Botany of Desire* on **Thursday**
- Jan. 22 Plants as energy source, opportunities and limitations, food or fuel?
- Jan. 29 The Endangered Species Act, animals and plants in peril, link to global warming
- Jan. 30 First Exam (Tuesday)**
- Feb. 5 Invasive plants, invasive pests; keeping the balance?
- Feb. 8 Quiz** over Chapter 1, Sweetness, *The Botany of Desire* on **Thursday**
- Feb. 12 Global agriculture today; tradition versus technology
- Feb. 13 Second Exam, Tuesday**
- Feb. 19 From the Green Revolution to GMOs, organic agriculture versus technology
- Feb. 22 Quiz** over Chapter 4, *The Botany of Desire*, on **Thursday**
- Feb. 26 Global politics of food: farm subsidies, WTO, fair trade in food
- March 1 Quiz** over Chapter 3, *The Botany of Desire*, on **Thursday**
- Mar. 5 Plants in sustainable development; looking to the future

Final exam: Thursday, March 15, at 2:30 p.m.