

Ohio University
PBIO 103 (on-line), Plants and People
Fall 2006

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Course Overview: The course introduces the student to the basic concepts of plant biology and to the societal and political implications of our interactions with plants.

Class Format: This course is an on-line offering of the course material. There is no classroom component. Students will be expected to read the assignments and complete the projects as indicated on the course calendar. All exams will be given on-line. There will be a discussion board set up on Blackboard to facilitate communication among students.

Textbook: *Plants and Society*, 4th edition by E. Levetin & K. McMahon, McGraw-Hill Press. (soft cover)

Course Blackboard page: <https://blackboard.ohiou.edu> Sign in using your oak ID and password. You should see a listing for PBIO 103.

Grading: There will be three exams during this course. Each exam will be objective (multiple choice, matching etc.) in nature. The exams will cover all the chapters since the last exam. There is no comprehensive final. Your final grade will be determined by adding the points acquired on the three exams and five short projects. Exams will be taken through blackboard and submitted electronically by the date indicated. You may take the exams at anytime up to the deadline. There will be no late or make-up exams. The five projects/papers that you will develop will be submitted via the blackboard digital drop box. Project reports must be submitted in a timely manner. Each is due the Friday of the week they are listed by 5 pm. Late projects will not be accepted or graded. I will also provide self-study quizzes on Blackboard for you to use to “test your knowledge.” They will be provided each week covering the material for that week. They will be in the format of the exams and should be an excellent study tool. These are for your own benefit and will not be considered in the final grade.

Exam 1 75 pts

Exam 2 75 pts

Exam 3 75 pts

Projects 75 pts

Five (5) projects will be assigned for students to complete at home and report to the class in a written format. These include a variety of short activities designed to enhance learning and familiarity with the course material. Project reports are due by 5 pm Friday of the week they are assigned.

Grade Assignment:

<u>Approximate Percentage</u>	<u>Points Accumulated</u>
94-100 = A	282-300 points
90-93 = A-	270-281 points
87-89 = B+	261-269 points
83-86 = B	249-260 points
80-82 = B-	240-248 points
75-79 = C+	225-239 points
65-74 = C	195-224 points
60-64 = C-	180-194 points
57-59 = D+	171-179 points
53-56 = D	159-170 points
50-52 = D-	150-158 points
0-49 = F	0-149 points

Each student is expected to keep up with the readings during each week of the quarter.

Academic dishonesty: Any evidence of cheating, including plagiarism, will result in failure of the course.

Course Calendar

Week	Date	Chapter	Topic	Assignments due
1	Sept 5	Ch. 1	Plants in our Lives	
		Ch. 2	The Plant Cell	
		Ch. 3	The Plant Body	
2	Sept 11	Ch. 4	Plant Physiology	
		Ch. 5	Plant Life Cycle: Flowers	
		Ch. 6	Plant Life Cycle: Fruits and Seeds	Project 1 (due 5 pm 9/15)
3	Sept 18	Ch. 7	Genetics	
		Ch. 8	Plant Systematics and Evolution	
		Ch. 9	Diversity of Plant Life	
4	Sept 25	Ch. 1-9	EXAM 1	Exam 1 completed by midnight 9/26.
		Ch. 10	Human Nutrition	
		Ch. 11	Origins of Agriculture	Project 2 (due 5 pm, 9/29)
5	Oct 2	Ch. 12	The Grasses	
		Ch. 13	Legumes	
		Ch. 14	Starchy Staples	
6	Oct 9	Ch. 15	Feeding a Hungry World	
		Ch. 16	Stimulating Beverages	
		Ch. 17	Herb and Spices	Project 3 (check date for discussions)
7	Oct 16	Ch. 10-17	EXAM 2	Exam 2 completed by midnight 10/16.
		Ch. 18	Materials: Cloth, paper and wood	
		Ch. 19	Medicinal Plants	
8	Oct 23	Ch. 20	Psychoactive Plants	
		Ch. 21	Poisonous and Allergy Plants	
		Ch. 22	The Algae	Project 4 (due 5 pm, 10/27)
9	Oct 30	Ch. 23	Fungi in the Natural Environment	
		Ch. 24	Beverages and Foods from Fungi	
		Ch. 25	Fungi that Affect Human Health	

10	Nov 6	Ch. 26	Ecology	Project 5 (due 5 pm 11/21)
	Nov 21	Ch. 18-26	EXAM 3	Exam 3 completed by midnight 11/21

Projects

Project 1. Supermarket Botany. On page 46 of your text is “A Closer Look 3.3” on supermarket botany. Take a look at this exercise and then take a trip to your local grocery store produce section and see how many additional vegetables you can add to the list. Make a table of your discoveries. Include the name of the vegetable, what plant organ it is and any additional information you can add (history, country of origin etc.). Your grade will be based on the number of items, the accuracy of your information and your source citations.

Project 2. Plants in our local economies. Several of the “Closer Looks” and Table 1 (p. 4) demonstrate the importance of plants to the cultures and economies around the world (p 57, 76, 225, 275, 358). This project asks you to take a look at how important plants have been/are important to your local communities. Many of the communities around the Athens areas have festivals emphasizing the importance of plants to the area (e.g. Pumpkin Show in Circleville, OH; Apple Festival in Jackson, OH; Corn Festival, Millersport, OH; PawPaw Festival; Athens, OH). There are also numerous farmers’ markets and garden club events. For this project you should choose a local event, describe the event, provide a brief history (how and when it started) and detail its economic importance to your area. You may interview organizers, utilize web sites, newspaper/magazine articles etc. Please be sure to cite your sources for the information you provide.

Project 3. Internet discussion on Blackboard. Each student must participate in one of the discussions. Each will have a designated time frame. Students have at least three independent postings: two statements and one question to get credit. Statements (information) must be fully documented by source material. Grades will be based on the number of entries (3 posting at one time will receive less credit than 3 postings throughout the discussion) and the quality of the entries to the discussion. Choose one.

Topic 1. Biofuels (Oct 9-11)

Topic 2. Fair trade policies (Oct 12-Oct 14)

Project 4. A day in your life. For this project, choose one day and make a list of all the plant products that you use that day. Be sure to consider lotions, cosmetics, foods, food supplements, spices, beverages, hair products, clothes, transportation, furniture etc. etc. Complete the table. Your grade will be based on the completeness of your effort (number of items, effort to assess items for plant products, and accuracy of information).

Item	Compound	Use	Plant source
sheets	cotton	fabric	cotton
toothpaste	caragenan	geling agent	algae
	mint	flavoring	mint
Coke	caffeine	stimulant	
	caramel coloring		
	citric acid		Citrus fruit

Project 5. Make a plant product from scratch. Make one of the products listed or come up with something else you can make from scratch. When completed, take a picture of your product and write a short (1-2 page) description of the process: how it went, how successful you were, what you thought of the process, who sampled your finished product, who helped, if anyone, and what their role was, what they thought. Also attach (on a separate sheet) the protocol you used.

Potential products (protocols provided)

- Jelly
- Dye (Tie-dye) a t-shirt w natural dyes
- Paper
- Tea Tasting
- Salve
- Bread from scratch, no machines