

# Plant Ecology

PBIO-209 (#05400), 4cr.  
Winter 2007

	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Teaching Assistant</u>
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	By appointment (email or call)	TBA

Web: <http://www.plantbio.ohiou.edu/epb/instruct/pbio209/index.htm>  
Grades will be posted on BlackBoard

Scheduling: Tu, W = 3:10PM to 4:00PM  
Th = 3:10PM to 5:00PM  
>> Porter Hall room 104

Required Text: Gurevitch, J., S.M. Scheiner, and G.A. Fox. 2006. *The Ecology of Plants*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Sinauer Associates, Sunderland, MA. 523 p.

Goals of Course: The goals for this course are to explore the basic concepts, theory, and applied aspects of plant ecology. The focus will be on the interactions of plants with the living and nonliving components of their environment, with an emphasis on the role of evolution in ecological interactions. Completion of this course will provide you with a broad overview of the discipline and the foundation for more specialized advanced courses.

Grading: **4 Exams (3 regular + 1 comprehensive final; 100 pts ea);**  
**1 Field trip (Columbus' Franklin Park Conservatory, 30pts);**  
**1 Term paper on a plant and its ecosystem (70 points);**  
**1 Class webpage contribution (50 pts); = 550 points total for the quarter**

Academic: *Attendance*, while not formally taken, is expected for all lectures. The *Code of Student Conduct* should be strictly adhered to. Academic misconduct (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) will result in a grade of "F" for the course with subsequent referral to the Office of University Judiciaries. The university policies regarding the student code of conduct and academic integrity are clearly and completely summarized at:  
<http://www.cats.ohiou.edu/judiciaries/index.htm>.

Field Trip: Students will be required to, within the first 3 weeks of January, go on a field trip to the [Franklin Park Conservatory](#) in Columbus OH. There will one Saturday where the Instructor and TA will lead a trip (and drive OU vans). During the trip you'll receive a handout that needs to be completed during the tour and turned in for credit. You are also welcome to complete the assignment by leading yourself on a self-guided tour and doing the subsequent assignment. The idea of this trip is for you to experience plants and different habitat types, and to inspire you to select a plant and biome for the subject of your term paper. You will be presented with a list of plant/biome paper topics, or you may select your own after obtaining permission of the instructor.

*Besides, the Franklin Park Conservatory is a magnificent place to be in the middle of an Ohio winter!*

**Your term paper and Web Page contribution will be linked efforts.**

The general idea is that you'll select a plant and learn about the biome it exists within. You will prepare a web page that describes the plant and its habitat. **Your plant and habitat topics MUST BE CHOSEN, and turned in in class in writing, on 18 January 2007.**

You will receive, later in the quarter, handouts describing each assignment.

**Web Page Contribution:** You'll use a web page template (designed by me) to create a 1+ page web page about your plant, and link to its correct habitat type, and describe that habitat type. Your web page will be then linked and accessible to all others in the class so we can all learn from each other's efforts.

We will rely on the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) habitat definitions found at this link:

[http://www.panda.org/about\\_wwf/where\\_we\\_work/ecoregions/about/habitat\\_types/selecting\\_terrestrial\\_ecoregions/index.cfm](http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/ecoregions/about/habitat_types/selecting_terrestrial_ecoregions/index.cfm)

**The WWF defines 14 major habitat types:**

- \* Tropical and Subtropical Moist Broadleaf Forests
- \* Tropical & Subtropical Dry Broadleaf Forests
- \* Tropical & Subtropical Coniferous Forests
- \* Temperate Broadleaf & Mixed Forests
- \* Temperate Coniferous Forests
- \* Boreal Forests / Taiga
- \* Tropical & Subtropical Grasslands, Savannas & Shrublands
- \* Temperate Grasslands, Savannas & Shrublands
- \* Flooded Grasslands & Savannas
- \* Montane Grasslands & Shrublands
- \* Tundra
- \* Mediterranean Forests, Woodlands & Scrub
- \* Deserts & Xeric Shrublands
- \* Mangroves

**Term paper:** You will then write a short paper about the potential threats to the habitat the plant lives within, and make recommendations as to how you might remedy those threats. The paper should be 3 pages, 12 point Times font, double spaced.

**BOTH YOUR WEB PAGE, AND YOUR TERM PAPER, WILL BE TURNED IN ELECTRONICALLY.**

**Academic Issues:** *Attendance*, while not formally taken, is expected for all lectures.

**Plagiarism** is an issue that we all must be vigilant of. Flagrant cases of plagiarism, if detected by me, will result in a zero for the assignment and possible reporting to Student Judiciaries. Because you are turning in electronic assignments, I will easily be able to detect whether or not you plagiarized material from the web ([www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)). Never fear, help is available! If you have questions about how to cite information correctly, and how to avoid plagiarism, please see Dr. Val Young's webpage (Ohio University) on technical writing and the avoidance of plagiarism = <http://www.ent.ohiou.edu/~valy/plag.html>  
Indiana University also has another excellent website = <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>