

## Plants and People – PBIO103

Section A02, call 05027; 4cr

Winter quarter 2005

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**Office Hours:** *available on request via EMAIL*

**Lecture:** M 3:10-4:00 all lectures in room 104 Porter Hall  
Tu 3:10-4:00  
W 3:10-5:00 < note this is a 2 hour day

**Text:** Custom edition (paperback) of Plant Biology by Graham, Graham and Wilcox. Purchase at local bookstores, ~\$40.

**\*\*PBIO or Biology majors** looking for a great basic text might want to purchase the actual textbook instead (hardcover, ~\$80)

**Web:** [http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~brownk4/PBIO103\\_KJB.html](http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~brownk4/PBIO103_KJB.html)

### By the quarter's end, a successful student should know:

- **What makes a plant a plant? = fundamentals of plant biology**
- **The many tasty, interesting, useful and mystical uses of plants**
- **How plants have affected the course of pre-human and current history**
- **The ecological context of plants on our planet**

**Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism is defined as "to steal or purloin and pass off as one's own (the ideas, words, artistic productions, etc., of another); to use without due credit the ideas, expressions or productions of another. From the Greek *plagious*, meaning oblique, crooked, treacherous." Webster's New International Dictionary, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.

This means that you cannot turn in someone else's work as your own, look onto someone else's exam, or write or speak someone else's words without giving them the appropriate credit. **If I detect a violation of this code you will receive a F for the course and the Office of University Judiciaries will be notified.**

**Questions? Please see the OU Student Code of Conduct:**

<http://www.cats.ohiou.edu/judiciaries/index.htm>

### TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

It's my job to present you with a collection of ideas and materials that engage you in learning the thematic material of the course (a.k.a. lectures), and you give you timely feedback on your grade in this class.

It's your job to read, attend class, discuss, ask for help when you need it -- not the night before the exam, ask questions, do your assignments in a timely manner, and have fun! Remember the TA and I are here to help you.

Attendance is not mandatory for this class, but you will find that you perform optimally if you attend class having done the reading, take notes for yourself, participate in class discussion, and ask questions.

As incentive for you to attend class, **four "pop" exercises** will be given on random dates throughout the quarter. If you are not present on the day we do a "pop" exercise (e.g., thought paper, concept quiz) you will not be permitted to do it at a later time.

	<u>points</u>		<u>% of grade</u>
	100	<b>Exam #1</b>	<b>22.5 %</b>
	100	<b>Exam #2</b>	<b>22.5 %</b>
	100	<b>Exam #3 (final)</b>	<b>22.5 %</b>
2 @ 40	80	<b>Paper analysis</b>	<b>18.0 %</b>
2 @ 22	44	<b>Online discussion</b>	<b>10.0 %</b>
4 @ 5	20	<b>thought papers</b>	<b>4.5 %</b>
	444		

**Exams** for this class will be a combination of short answer and multiple choice. Exams are semi-cumulative, and **worth 100 points each**.

**Missed exams:** makeups are permitted if you are sick, have a medical excuse (i.e., note from Hudson Health helps); if you are an athlete with an away game, present me with a schedule from your coach. Otherwise, missed exams will \*rarely\* be allowed to be made up; please make a concerted effort to attend on exam days. I EXPECT YOU TO TRY TO NOTIFY ME IN ADVANCE IF YOU ARE GOING TO MISS AN EXAM BASED ON THE EXCUSES ABOVE.

**Paper Analysis** = **TWO** at **40 points** each

You will be assigned a plant-related paper from a popular science source (Discover, Scientific American, or a newspaper or other magazine). These papers will be available for download from our class web page. Your assignment will be to read the paper and use critical thinking skills to analyze the content of the paper. The purpose of these assignments is for you to practice your interpretation and comprehension of "plants and people" topics.

If you have an article that you would rather read (one that is not on our class webpage) then you may bring it to the instructor for approval. If the instructor approves the paper then you can use that one instead for your critique.

**Late assignments:** Assignments are due at **3:10** on specified days. Assignments turned in later than that will be regarded as late, with no exceptions. [This policy addresses sliding into class late on the day the assignment is due.] Late assignments will be penalized 10% for each day they are late unless you have an extenuating circumstance (see "mixed exams" section for examples).

**Online Discussions** = **TWO** at **22 points** each

You will be placed into a virtual group (with ~8 people) and expected to participate in **two separate on-line discussions with your group through the Blackboard portal on our course web page** (see prev. page for URL). Each online discussion will be based on both lecture and reading materials.

The time window allotted for each discussion session will be from Sunday morning @9am up until the following Tuesday @9pm (after which the forum will be closed, all posts collected and graded). These discussions will be moderated by an instructor or TA, and will provide you with an opportunity to practice your communication skills and share your ideas with a smaller audience of your peers. **When you come into class on Wednesday, we'll have an in-class follow up on your virtual discussion.**

**Earning the grade:** During each discussion period, each student will be expected to post at least **THREE** original thoughts (a question, a statement, a comment on the material), and respond to at least **THREE** posts by other members of your group. If you do a really good job (more than the minimum) you can earn extra credit!

**FLAMING is NOT permitted** (even by me!) – **treat your fellow classmates with respect, even if you do not share their views.**

Your points earned are a function of your level of participation and relevance of your discussion to the academic topic at hand. **Zero** points will be given for chats about weather, sports, weekend discussions, etc. Full credit will be given to students who demonstrate that they have thought about the topic at hand, and provide thoughtful commentary.

Example of a **high-scoring**, thoughtful post from a student last year:

“... In early agrarian societies, when farmers took the larger plants in a crop and propagated them, that was genetic modification. I wouldn't think twice before eating GM food. No one is injecting chemicals into our food. Keep in mind that we're not talking about preservatives, that's a totally different topic.”

Example of a **low-scoring** post from a student last year (this was after I had delivered 2 lectures and given assigned reading on the topic):

“What are GMO foods exactly and how do I know that I am consuming them?? I am just really interested about them.”

[There are 56+ computer labs on the OU-Athens campus](#) for students to use, so not having home access to computers is **not** an acceptable excuse for lack of participation.

**Thought Papers = 20 points total (5 points each for 4 papers)**

Four times during the quarter, I'll stop lecturing 10 minutes early to give you a chance to write a “thought” paper based on a topic or question I'll announce at the time. These are not tests. These papers provide you with a chance to exercise your writing skills, to summarize your thoughts, to demonstrate the PBIO103 concepts that you have learned, and give me feedback on what you are having problems with. **NOTE:** “thought” papers will be given on unannounced dates and there are **NO** opportunities for make-ups – another motivation to come to class!

**Grade Scale**

93-100	A	80-82	B-	67-69	D+
90-92	A-	77-79	C+	63-66	D
87-89	B+	73-76	C	60-62	D-
83-86	B	70-72	C-	<60	F