

**Course Syllabus
Plant Form and Function
BIO 451, 3 credits**

Instructor: Dr. Stokes S. Baker
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 Office Hours: 1:00 to 2:00 PM, MWF; 2:00 to 3:00 PM, TR
Additional hours by appointment. I have an open door policy; which mean that, I am happy to see you outside of office hours if I am not meeting with other people or in the middle of a critical experimental procedure.

Text

Moore, R., and W.D. Clark. 1995. Botany: Plant Form and Function. Wm. C. Brown Publishers, Dubuque, IA. ISBN: 0-697-16656-2.

Description

An introduction to the diversity of forms of the plant kingdom. In this course, you will learn not only what plants look like, but also how plant morphology and anatomy is a evolutionary response to their function and physiology. In this course, not only will we discuss how plants function, but how scientists discover fundamental process in the plant world.

Methods

The course is a traditional lecture series with readings from the text. I may, at my discretion, assign additional materials from other sources. **In our lectures, open discussion is strongly encouraged.**

Material covered

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Pages</u>
1	An Introduction to Botany	3-18
Appx-C	Diversity of Living Organisms	C1-C7
17	Reproductive Morphology	378-407
2	Atoms and Molecules	19-41
3	Structure and Function of Plant Cells	44-71
4	Membranes and Membrane Transport	72-89
7	Photosynthesis	130-161
12	Plant Growth and Development	259-279
	Plant development handout	
11	Gene Technology	245-257
14	Primary Growth: Stems and Leaves	304-329
16	Secondary Growth (stems)	354-375
15	Primary Growth: Roots	332-351
18	Plant Hormones	409-433
19	How Plants Respond to Environmental Stimuli	436-457

Computer Policy

I have created a course web page on the University's Blackboard™ server. All students have access to the World Wide Web through the University's computer labs. Netscape Navigator, MS Explorer and Tucow's Opera are compatible with Blackboard. If you are an American On Line user, talk to the instructor.

I assume that you know how to use an Internet browser. If you do not know how to use this type of software, let me know. I can teach you the basics of the use of Internet browsers in a few minutes. You can access the courses web site at the following URL:

<http://knowledge.udmercy.edu>

The courses web site is password protected. Instructions on how to enroll into the web site will be distributed in a separate handout. I strongly encourage all students to enroll into the course's web site. The following materials will be posted:

- Course syllabus
- Research tools
- All handouts that are not copyright restricted
- Links to the text books computer resources

Examinations

Examinations will have questions that are short answer, problem solving, labeling, fill-in-the-blank, and possible multiple choice. The questions will be formulated to determine the student's knowledge of topics covered in the lectures and the readings. There will be questions that test your abilities to integrate topics. True-false and matching questions will **NOT** be used.

The final exam will consist of 100 points for materials not covered in Exams I, II and III, and 100 points of comprehensive questions. I do not drop exam grades. However, I am interested with you learning the material. Thus, I will substitute one of the grades you received on the midterm examinations (i.e., either Exam I, II or III), with the grade you received on the comprehensive portion of the final exam if it is higher. This will not be done, if you do not complete all examinations.

Presentations

Each student will present a 25 minute presentation on botanical topics based on primary botanical literature. The presentation will be worth 50 points. Details of the assignment will be presented in a separate handout.

LATE POLICY

Make-up exams are only given if a student is absent due to a legitimate excuse (i.e., illness, death in the family, etc.). The make-up exam format will include the following types of questions: essay, short answer, fill-in-the-blank. You must contact me before the exam if possible, or within 48 hours of the exam period. Failure to do so will result in you forfeiting your right to take a make-up exam. Make-up exams must be taken as soon as possible. I will not return graded exams until all make-up exams have been taken.

Extensions for out of class assignments are only given due to extreme circumstances (e.g., hospital stay, etc.). You must contact me before the due date, if possible, or within 48 hours afterwards. Failure to do so will result in your forfeiting your right for an extension. Grades for late assignments (i.e., not an approved extension) will be reduced by 1/3 letter grade (e.g., an A- will become a B+) for each day it is late.

Inclement Weather/Class Cancellation Polity

Class will only be canceled if the University is officially closed by its senior administration. This is a rare event. If you are uncertain if the university is closed, check the course's Blackboard web site (<http://knowledge.udmercy.edu>). The instructor will post an announcement as soon as he is given official notification. All assignments due that canceled period (including exams and other assignments) will be due the next time the class meets. The instructor reserved the right to rearrange the courses schedule (including exam dates and presentation dates) to accommodate the university's closing. If the university closes during the schedule final exam, the final exam will be administered on the make-up date determined by the Registrar's Office.

Important Dates and Course Schedule

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Value</u>
Exam I	Thursday, January 31	100 points
Exam II	Thursday, February 21	100 points
Midterm grades	Submitted February 26	
Spring break	March 4 through 10	
Exam III	Tuesday, March 26	100 points
Last day to withdraw	Thursday, March 28	
Easter Recess	March 29 through 31	
Presentation	TBA	50 points
Final exam	April 23, 11:00 AM - 12:50 PM	<u>200 points</u>
	Total Points:	600 points

Grades

You are guaranteed the following minimum grade based upon the following percentile scale:

A = 100 to 95%	A- = 94 to 90%	
B+ = 89 to 85%	B = 84 to 80%	B- = 79 to 75%
C+ = 74 to 70%	C = 69 to 65%	C- = 64 to 60%
D+ = 59 to 55%	D = 54 to 50%	
F = 49 to 0%		

I do **NOT** grade on a standard curve. I reserve the right, however, to lower the grading requirements if the tests are sufficiently challenging to warrant a different grading scale.

To calculate your grade, use the following formula:

the sum of points received

$$\text{percent score} = \frac{\text{-----}}{\text{total possible points}} \times 100$$

I do NOT grade on a standard curve. I reserve the right, however, to lower the grading requirements if the tests are sufficiently challenging to warrant a different grading scale.

Courtesy

You must be courteous to your fellow classmates and to the instructor. To this end, talking during lectures is not permitted. If you are disturbing others in class, I will request that you leave. However, I strongly encourage questions and comments.

The following etiquette will be used with cellular devices:

- Pagers will be placed in a silent mode (i.e., vibrate or off)
- Cellular telephones will be turned off during the class period. If an emergency page comes in, the student will quietly leave the class room before turning on their cellular telephone.

Academic Integrity

I expect you to follow the norms of academic conduct. You will adhere to the policies outlined in Appendix A of the 2001/02 Student Handbook of Policies and Procedures. I recommend that you read this appendix. Students caught plagiarizing or cheating will received a grade of zero for that assignment. The following activities are considered cheating:

1. Looking at someone else's exam.
2. Looking at notes or books during an exam.
3. Looking at an answer on another student's calculator.
4. Looking at information on electronic devices other than calculators.
5. Giving information to another student during an exam.