

BIOL 2553 COINT: Plants in the Modern World

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Syllabus - BIOL2553(COINT)

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Course Overview

"Plants in the Modern World" is designed to help all students, whether they have a background in science, to understand the economic and ethnic background of plant use, the parts used, and the history of their use. The course started with "basic training" in plant biology that may be review for some, but provides a common starting point for all students. Understanding this introductory material will go a long way to understanding all aspects of the course.

From there, we will investigate historical and modern components of agriculture, medicine, drugs, alcohol, building materials and clothing. We will also discuss GMOs in the context of whether they are good/bad for the planet and its population. My hope is that by the time you complete the course you will have a better understanding of the plant-based foods you eat, how they are used in food processing, and why an understanding of plant biology, even at a cursory level, will help you make better decisions in your local market, clothing store, or when watching/reading the news.

Instructor

I first taught this course when I arrived in the Fall of 2001 at Acadia University. For the past 20-ish years I have reconfigured content, adding and deleting where material seemed redundant or less interesting. In fact, many of the new ideas over the years have come from student input through questions raised in class, conversations passing in the hall, or end of semester feedback on student evaluations.

Although some of this material has been prepared to be presented online during the Covid-19 pandemic, my goal is to make it engaging and activity-based, relying on slide presentations less than if I was presenting in a class room setting.



Contact Information:

Biology Department
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Wolfville, Nova Scotia
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Course Materials

No Text Required

Course Requirements • Access to course Moodle page • Vaughn Memorial Library's Biology LibGuide • Participation in practice quizzes, content requests (e.g. Grocery Store Scavenger Hunts; Ingredient Lists, etc...)

See the [student handbook](#) for ordering information.

You will find information on accessing Library resources from off-campus here - <http://library.acadiau.ca/distance-education/access.html>.

Course Structure

Learning Materials: will be presented in PowerPoint based modules that will have embedded videos and links to contextual/interesting information. Each module will be available through the course Moodle page.

Student Learning Outcomes • Understand basic plant biology. • Understand basic plant reproduction and production of seeds/fruit • Understand the history of plant use for various processes/products (agriculture, medicine, clothing, shelter, alcohol, drugs) • Understand the basis of GMO technology and how plants can be modified to display certain traits.

Student Evaluation - Evaluations will be available on Moodle and based on each module.

Part 3: Topic Outline/Schedule (Lecture Material)

Module #1: Vegetative & Reproductive Morphology an Introduction

Module #2: Origins of Agriculture Cereal Crops

Module #3: Legumes

Module #4: Foods from Stems, Leaves, and Roots

Module #5: Plant Derived Medicinals

Module #6: Mushrooms, Mycotoxins & Molds

Module #7: Herbs, Spices, & Perfumes

Module #8: Vegetable Oils, Fats, Waxes & Hydrogels

Module #9: Plant Derived Beverages

Module #10: GMOs & Algae

Term Paper Outline:

Use library resources and/or online scientific journals to research a plant or plant-based product. The paper should be no longer than five (5), double-spaced, typewritten pages of text (Figures and Title Page do not count toward page space). **Students will lose 10% per page that is over/under the 5 page limit.** Your paper should include no less than five (5) references in a "Literature Cited" section at the end of your paper.

*** Web references of ANY type (e.g., Google, Wikipedia, on-line encyclopedias, etc.) **are not to be used as sources of information for your paper.**

*** On-line articles from peer-reviewed journals **are acceptable.** If you are unsure about a reference please check with me or a University Librarian. Reference formatting must follow the style outlined by the Journal "Botany." Examples of the Botany style are available on the Vaughan Library Page: Botany Citation Guide Botany Referencing Examples

Choosing Topics:

All students must submit a list of three (3) potential topics electronically (email a WORD or pdf file) within 2 weeks of starting the course. The description of each topic **MUST** include a short (~250 words) description of **EACH TOPIC**, as well as a scan/photocopy/link of either an abstract, or introductory page from a chapter for **at least three potential sources** for your paper. **This outline will be worth 6% of your final mark, and must be handed in at least two weeks prior to your rough draft.**

Rough Copy Edit: Students will be required to hand in a complete (at least four pages) draft of the paper, by submitting the draft to turnitin.com (link will be available on Moodle). **This will be worth 4% of your final mark.** I will edit a portion of the paper that you will be able to view on Moodle. Edited papers will be available to view within 10 working days of submission. **This must be handed in at least 2 weeks prior to the final copy of your paper.**

Project Due Date: The final version of your paper must be submitted to Turnitin.com **at least six weeks** prior to applying to write the final exam.

Evaluation

Evaluation Method	Total of Final Grade
Term Paper Topics	5%
Term Paper Rough Draft	6%
Term Paper	20%
Module Quizzes (10 @ 0.5% each)	5%
Pantry/Grocery Store Scavenger Hunts (3 in total @ 5% each)	15%
Botany of Desire - Potatoes	7%
Botany of Desire - Marijuana	7%
Midterm Exam (After Module 5)	15%
Final Exam (Cumulative - Modules 1-10)	20%
Total	100%

The assignments are delivered to the instructor via assignment drop-boxes. Please remember to put your name, student number, course number, and assignment number on the assignment and keep a copy in the event the original is lost.

The last assignment should be received at least 4 weeks prior to the date you wish to write the exam. This will allow adequate processing time for the request, and for setting the exam.

Note files must be readable by a reasonably current version of MS Office.

Exam

How to apply: Fill out the form 'Apply to write the Final Exam' link in the final module of your course.

Proctored at Acadia

- The final exam in an online course must be passed to successfully pass the course unless otherwise stated in the assessment section of the course syllabus. There are no rewrites or supplemental examinations at Acadia University.
- Examination requests must be received 14 days or 2 weeks prior to the date you wish to write your examination.
- Course requirements must be completed to the satisfaction of your instructor.
- Graduating Students Note: If you are graduating in Spring Convocation you must write by April 15th. If you are graduating in the Fall

you must write by September 15th.

Proctored at Another Location

If it isn't practical to take your exam at Acadia, off-campus exams can be written at another university or college. Arrangements for an examination may be made through the Registrar's Office or the Continuing Education office of most universities and colleges. If it is not possible to write your exam at an approved institution, please contact us for assistance.

- All fees associated with examinations written at other locations are your responsibility.
- Some courses may require specific software or internet accessibility at the off-campus examination location.

Student Handbook

You are responsible for becoming familiar with the contents of the Student Handbook. It contains important information about scheduling examinations (if applicable), applying for extensions, withdrawing from your course, ordering books, and computer and library services available to you. If you have questions about the policies outlined in the handbook (<https://courseware.acadiau.ca/openacadia/studenthandbook.html>), contact:

Open Acadia
21 University Avenue (Rhodes Hall)
Wolfville, NS B4P 2R6
Phone: 1-800-565-6568
Fax: 1-902-585-1068
Email: openacadia@acadiau.ca

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity demands responsible use of the work of other scholars. It is compromised by academic dishonesty such as cheating and plagiarism. A student who is uncertain whether or not a course of action might constitute cheating or plagiarism should seek in advance the advice of the instructor involved.

- Cheating is copying or the use of unauthorized aids or the intentional falsification or invention of information in any academic exercise
- Plagiarism is the act of presenting the ideas or words of another as one's own. Students are required to acknowledge and document the sources of ideas that they use in their written work.
- Self-plagiarism is also a form of plagiarism. It is the presentation of the same work in more than one course without the permission of the instructors involved.
- A student who knowingly helps another to commit an act of academic dishonesty is equally guilty.
- Penalties are levied in relation to the degree of the relevant infraction. They range from requiring the student to re-do the piece of work, through failure on that piece of work, to failure in the course, and to dismissal from the university.

Course Schedule

You have 6 months to complete this course. You may set your own schedule, but if you intend to complete the course in less than 3 months, you should let me know so that we can arrange a schedule.

Please do not leave all of your course work until a few weeks before your completion date. Although I will make every effort to accommodate your schedule within reason, I need time to grade assignments and mark exams..

Recommended Schedule

Week 1	Module 1
Week 2-3	Module 2

Week 4	Module 3
Week 5	Module 4
Week 6	Module 5
Week 7	Module 6
Week 8	Module 7
Week 9-10	Module 8
Week 11-12	Module 9
Week 13-14	Module 10

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Last modified: Tuesday, 9 April 2024, 1:35 PM

◀ [Course Introduction - video](#)

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