

**SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Department of Biological Sciences**  
**Fall 2007 Semester**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**BIO 161 General Botany**

Instructor: Christopher Randle  
Office: Lee Drain Building 141  
Office Hours: M,W,Th, F. 11:00 am-12:00 pm or by appointment  
Phone: 294-1554  
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Time & Location: M,W,F 8:00-8:50 LDB 215

**Course Objectives:** All life on the planet depends on plants for the production of food and oxygen through photosynthesis. It is not surprising that plants are the basis of all terrestrial biological communities. This course is intended to provide a broad understanding of the many ways in which plants affect our lives and their importance in evolutionary history and in current global phenomena. Many aspects of botany will be investigated from the anatomy and morphology of plants to the function and inheritance of genetic traits, to the evolution of major plant lineages.

**Book: *Introduction to Botany*** by Murray Nabors. ISBN: 0-8053-4416-0

This is an excellent source of information. Completing the reading is highly recommended. While I have used Nabors extensively in constructing this course, lecture exams will cover only material presented in lecture. **SOME OF THIS MATERIAL IS NOT COVERED BY THE TEXT.** Reading assignments will be given in class and posted on Blackboard.

**Grading:** Grades will be determined from four exams (non-cumulative), a final exam (cumulative), and 10 homework assignments.

<sup>1</sup> Lecture Exam 1: September 21*	100 pts
<sup>1</sup> Lecture Exam 2: October 19*	100 pts
<sup>1</sup> Lecture Exam 3: November 16*	100 pts
<sup>1</sup> Lecture Exam 4: Dec 5*	100 pts
Homework	100 pts
<sup>1</sup> Final: December 10, 8:00-10:00am	100 pts
<b>Total</b>	<b>500 pts</b>

\*Estimated dates; these are subject to change.

<sup>1</sup>The lowest of these grades will be dropped.

**THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP LECTURE EXAMS OFFERED.** However, your lowest exam grade will be dropped. Homework assignments will be given in class and are to be turned in the next class period, unless otherwise specified. **HOMEWORK MUST BE WRITTEN ON PAPER. HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS MAY NOT BE TURNED IN ELECTRONICALLY.** There will be 10 homework assignments worth 12 pts each, making it possible to get 120 points out of 100 if all are satisfactorily completed. Some assignments can be completed in class. Bring at least one sheet of paper and a writing implement to every class.

Grades will be assigned as follows: 90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, < 60% = F. A curve will only be applied if the class average is below a C. No grade will be decreased due to any curve.

**Attendance:** The University requires that roll be taken. However, there will be no penalty for missing class other than the missed opportunity to get your money's worth from the University. I will allow homework to be made up if provided with an appropriate documentation of the excuse, or if given advanced warning that the class will be missed.

**Holidays/Important Dates:**

**September 3:** Labor Day. No classes.

**September 5:** Twelfth Class Day. Last day to drop without a “Q” and receive 100% refund.

**October 10:** Last day to drop Fall Semester courses without grade of F. Last day to resign without receiving WP or WF. Degree applications to be filed in Registrar’s Office by students graduating in May 2007.

**November 21-25:** Thanksgiving Break: No Class

See <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/> for additional documentation.

**Academic Honesty:**

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The university and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

**Visitors in the classroom:**

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

**Students with Disabilities:**

It is the policy of the university that no otherwise qualified disabled student shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from participation in, or denied benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request help with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities by contacting their instructor, school/department chair, or by contacting the university Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students/ Director of Counseling Center (located in Lee Drain Annex, phone 936-294-1720).

A student with a disability is encouraged to register with the university Counseling Center, as well as contacting their instructor about assistance needs. Accommodation cannot be made until the student has initiated the request with the Counseling Center. Every semester that the student desires accommodations, it is the student’s responsibility to complete a Classroom Accommodation Request Form at the Counseling Center and follow the stated procedure in notifying faculty. Accommodations for disabled students are decided upon documentation and need on a case-by-case basis by the Counseling Center. All requests are handled with confidentiality according to university procedures.

**Religious Holy Days Policy:**

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that the university excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University Policy 861001 provides procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first 15 days of the semester or the first 7 days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.