

**Instructor**

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Office hours: Wed 10:30 – 11:30  
am or by appointment

**BOT3503 Physiology and Molecular Biology of Plants**

Spring, 2024

Lecture: M,W,F | Period 3 (9:35 AM - 10:25 AM)

Florida Gymnasium (FLG) 0245

***Why is learning plant physiology important?*** Plant

physiology is the study of plant function and behavior. To

understand plant processes, a student must integrate concepts from molecular and cell biology, chemistry, and physics. Through the study of plant physiology, you will uncover links between plant structure and function and further your understanding of plant responses to their biotic and abiotic environment. Such knowledge provides a conceptual basis for the improvement of crops and the maintenance of other plant ecosystem services.

***This course aims to help students understand plant processes in agronomic and environmental contexts including***

- 1) Cell wall and membrane structures and functions;
- 2) Water and nutrient transport;
- 3) Gene expression and signal transduction;
- 4) Energetics, enzymes, and biochemical reactions;
- 5) Photosynthesis and respiration;
- 6) Growth, morphogenesis, and flowering;
- 7) Hormones and light responses;
- 8) Stress responses

***Further, our course will help you develop skills in***

- 1) Reading comprehension;
- 2) Critical thinking;
- 3) Oral and written communication

***Specific learning outcomes***

After you have completed this class, you will be able to:

- 1) Define characteristics that differentiate plants from animals;
- 2) Describe the structure and biochemistry of plant cell walls and membranes;
- 3) Discuss the physical properties that enable plant water transport;
- 4) List and describe the function of plant macro and micronutrients;
- 5) Explain signal transduction and the importance of gene expression in plant performance;
- 5) Outline and describe the biochemical pathways for photosynthesis and respiration;
- 6) Outline and describe the fundamental processes involved in the complete plant life cycle;
- 7) List and describe the function of key plant hormones;
- 8) Describe photochemical signals involved in plant growth and phenology;
- 9) Make predictions of plant behavior under water, light, nutrient, and herbivore stress

***Texts***

The primary text for this class is *Fundamentals of Plant Physiology* (1st edition) by Taiz et al., 2018. This is an introductory text that is succinct and easy to read with excellent artwork.

(For a more comprehensive text, you may instead use *Plant Physiology and Development* (6<sup>th</sup> edition) by Taiz et al., 2014. This original text is more advanced, but follows the same structure as the fundamentals text above. I strongly recommend the advanced text for graduate students and those interested in pursuing a career in plant science.)

**Course grades will be determined as follows:**

The course grade is determined from three exams, in-class questions, and homework assignments.

**Exams:** Examinations are primarily based on the material covered during class, but the text provides additional information for those that want or need background information. Memorization and regurgitation of facts is not a good strategy for success in the course. The three exams consist of short answer questions relating to the lecture and reading assignments and will require problem solving and synthesis of concepts. They will be taken during the regular class periods. Each exam is worth 100 points. A grade rubric will be provided when exams are returned.

**Assignments and in-class questions:** Students will answer questions during class. These questions are based on participation and cannot be submitted asynchronously (i.e., you must be in class to receive credit). You will also complete nine at-home problem sets through Canvas that will be evaluated on accuracy. This work will total 100 points.

**Grading scale:**

90 - 100% = A

80 - &lt;90% = B

70 - &lt;80% = C

60 - &lt;70% = D

below 60% = E

**Course Policies:**

The course meets from 9:35 a.m. to 10:25 a.m. (period 3) on Monday, Wednesday and Friday in Norman Hall 1037. Students are expected to complete readings before class, attend lectures and interact during class (questions during lecture are encouraged).

**Attendance and make-ups**

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms ([click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus](#)), please use the UF Health system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. [Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms](#). Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. Refer to the above link for more information on the university's attendance policy.

**Accommodations**

Students who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester. Note that the student should provide documentation of a requirement for accommodation by the second week of classes. No accommodations are available to students who lack this documentation. It is the policy of the University of Florida that the student, not the instructor, is responsible for arranging accommodations when needed. Once notification is complete, the Dean of Students Office of Disability Resources will work with the instructor to accommodate the student.

**Course Evaluations**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at [gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/](http://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from

GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via [ufl.bluera.com/ufl/](http://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at [gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/](http://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/).

### ***Academic Integrity***

“UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

### ***Important – Plagiarism***

Plagiarism is a serious violation of the Student Honor Code. It includes:

- Submitting all or part of someone else's work as if it is your own
- "Borrowing" without crediting the source
- Submitting duplicate assignments
- Collaborating or receiving substantive help in writing your assignment unless we require such collaboration as part of the work
- Failing to cite sources, or citing them improperly

Consequences of plagiarism:

- Failing grade on assignment AND
- Course grade penalty of one letter grade AND • Report to the Office of the Dean of Students.

Please review plagiarism and how to avoid it: <http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/msl/07b/studentplagiarism.html>

### ***Resources Available to Students***

#### ***Health and Wellness***

- *U Matter, We Care*: [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu); 392-1575
- *Counseling and Wellness Center*: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>; 392-1575
- *Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)*: Student Health Care Center; 392-1161
- *Career Resource Center*, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career and job search services.
- *University Police Department*: <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>; 392-1111 (911 for emergencies)
- Many students experience test anxiety and other stress – related problems. “A Self Help Guide for Students” is available through the Counseling Center (301 Peabody Hall; 392-1575) and at their web site: <http://www.counsel.ufl.edu/>.

#### ***Academic Resources***

- *E-learning technical support*: [Learningsupport@ufl.edu](mailto:Learningsupport@ufl.edu); <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>; 352-392-4357 (opt. 2)
- *Career Resource Center*: Reitz Union; <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>; 392-1601
- *Library Support*: <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>
- *Teaching Center*: Broward Hall; 392-2010 or 392-6420
- *Writing Studio*: 302 Tigert Hall; <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>; 846-1138

### ***Procedure for Conflict Resolution***

Any classroom issues, disagreements or grade disputes should be discussed first between the instructor and the student. If the problem cannot be resolved, please contact the Undergraduate/Graduate

Coordinator or the Department Chair. Be prepared to provide documentation of the problem, as well as all graded materials for the semester. Issues that cannot be resolved departmentally will be referred to the University Ombuds Office (<http://www.ombuds.ufl.edu>; 392-1308) or the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu>; 392-1261). For further information refer to [https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF\\_Complaints\\_policy.pdf](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf) (for residential classes) or <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaintprocess> (for online classes).

## Tentative course schedule

Date	Discussion Topics	Chapter
<b>UNIT 1</b>		
Jan 8	Introduction: What is a plant?	
Jan 10	Water and Plant Cells	2
Jan 12		
Jan 15	NO CLASS – Martin Luther King Jr. Day	
Jan 17		
Jan 19	Plant Water Balance	3
Jan 22		
Jan 24		
Jan 26		
Jan 29	Mineral Nutrition	4
Jan 31		
Feb 2	Nitrogen, Phosphate, and Iron Assimilation	5
Feb 5		
Feb 7	Solute Transport	6
<b>Feb 9</b>	<b>EXAM 1</b>	2-6
<b>UNIT 2</b>		
Feb 12	Photosynthesis: light reactions	7
Feb 14		
Feb 16		
Feb 19	Photosynthesis: carbon reactions	8
Feb 21		
Feb 23	Ecology and Photosynthesis	9
Feb 26		
Feb 28		
Mar 1		
Mar 4		
Mar 6		
Mar 8	Phloem Transport	10
Mar 11	NO CLASS—Spring Break	
Mar 13	NO CLASS—Spring Break	
Mar 15	NO CLASS—Spring Break	
Mar 18	Respiration and Lipid Metabolism	11
Mar 20		
<b>Mar 22</b>	<b>EXAM 2</b>	7-11
<b>UNIT 3</b>		
Mar 25	Whole Plant Growth	16
Mar 27	Plant signaling and hormones	12
Mar 29		
April 1		
April 3		
April 5		
April 8	Plant responses to light	13
April 10		
April 12	Seed dormancy, germination and seedling establishment	15
April 15		
April 17	Flowers, Fruits, and Seeds	17, 18, 20
April 19		
April 22		
<b>April 24</b>	<b>EXAM 3</b>	12-18, 20