

Plant Morphology Syllabus

PMB/IB c107L

Instructor: TBD

Graduate Student Instructors: TBD

Office Hours: 1-2pm Free Speech Cafe

The instructor and GSIs are open to making appointments outside of office hours, but only if you cannot make it to the office hours. Please note that the instructor and GSIs will try to respond to you by email within 24 hours, but may not be available sooner than that. We will not respond to emails sent within 24 hours of a midterm or final exam, so plan ahead!

Course Description:

This is an upper level lab course that fulfills a major requirement for the Genetics and Plant Biology and Integrative Biology majors. In Plant Morphology you will explore the biodiversity of land plants, learning to observe and describe this biodiversity comparatively. I hope that you will leave this class with a new appreciation and excitement for the plants around you and the ability to delight and/or annoy your friends and family with your new plant knowledge on all your hiking and cooking adventures.

At the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

1. Describe morphological characteristics of plants verbally and through detailed labeled drawings
2. Infer homology among plant structures and gather evidence to support your inferences
3. Compare plants, form arguments about the developmental and evolutionary processes that contribute to what you observe, and determine what pieces of evidence you would need to support or refute your argument

bCourses:

Resources important for class will be posted on bCourses

Main Texts:

We will primarily use “Morphology and Evolution of Vascular Plants” 3rd edition by Ernest Gifford and Adriance Foster (pdf on bCourses)

and Donald Kaplan's unpublished "Plant Morphology" book as a supplemental resource (pdfs on bCourses)

Meeting times:

Class begins 10 minutes after the start (as per Berkeley time).

Lecture: Monday 2-3pm in 109 DWINELLE

Labs: Tuesday 1-5pm in 209 Genetics and Plant Biology Teaching (GPB).

Discussion: Wednesday 2-3pm in 30 Wheeler

Required materials:

Three-ringed binder with lined or unlined paper. Pencil to draw. ***Lab handouts must be printed and ready before class.

Safety:

You must wear closed toed and closed healed shoes (no open toed shoes, clogs, or sandals) and long pants/dress in the lab. If you do not have closed shoes and covered legs, we are required to dismiss you from lab to comply with lab safety standards. This will result in an unexcused absence. Food and drink are not allowed in the lab at any time (this includes water, gum or candy). Please dispose of these items before entering the lab. There will be a bin outside the lab where students may deposit food or water bottles. Certain labs handle plants that present a small risk towards pregnant women. Most labs handle razor blades to analyze the plant specimens. If any of this poses a safety concern, please contact one of the GSIs in private.

Grading:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Percentage of Grade</u>
Lab reports - lowest non-zero grade will be dropped.	25
Discussion assignments & quizzes	15
Midterm Exam	15
Final Exam	25
Comparative Morphology Writing Project	15

* Participation – based on questions, classroom discussions, group activities, office hours conversations, emails, review sessions, and online discussion forums. As long as you contribute actively to the class learning community each week you will receive full participation points.

A+ At instructor/GSI discretion (represents extraordinary achievement, but does not receive grade point credit beyond that received for the grade of A)

A 94-100%

A- 90-93%

B+ 86-89%

B 83-85%

B- 80-82%

C+ 76-79%

C 73-75%

C- 70-72%

D+ 66-69%

D 63-65%

D- 60-62%

F <60%

*A C- or above is required to receive a “Pass” if taking pass/fail

Extra Learning/Credit:

Throughout the course there will be opportunities for extra credit/learning. A single student may not earn extra credit contributing to more than 1% of the total points for the course.

Re-grades:

If we have made an error, please come to the instructor’s (exams, final project) or GSI’s (discussion assignments and quizzes) office hours with your item and the grading rubric, prepared to show which additional points you should receive.

In the interest of time, we will not re-grade extra learning/credit assignments or lab reports, though we will correct calculation errors.

Accommodations for students with disabilities:

If you are or may be eligible to receive accommodations, please consider doing so. I want you to have your best chance of success in this course, and you can contribute the most if you have your needs met.

If you have been issued a letter of accommodation from the Disabled Students Program (DSP), please see the instructor as soon as possible to work out the necessary arrangements. If you need an accommodation and have not yet seen a Disability Specialist at the DSP, **please do so** as soon as possible. If you would need any assistance in the event of an emergency evacuation of the building, the DSP recommends that you make a plan for this in advance. (Contact the DSP access specialist at 643-6456 <http://dsp.berkeley.edu/>.)

Group Work and Academic Conduct:

- Lab reports may be worked on with notes and/or in groups as long as your group members are explicitly credited (record on the assignment who you worked with) and each individual student writes their own answers in their own words. Exams and quizzes must be completed alone without notes or aids (unless specified by DSP).
- I strongly encourage you to work and study in groups. The best way to practice for class discussions and exams is to discuss your ideas with others.
- Using the words, work, or ideas of others without proper attribution, or using class materials during quizzes and exams is against the academic code of conduct and will have consequences: <http://sa.berkeley.edu/conduct/integrity> Anyone who violates the code of conduct will receive an F and the incident will be reported à please ask for help instead of resorting to deception, I want you to succeed.

Attendance:

Please arrive on time to classes. If you know you will be traveling across campus to get to a class, or have a disability, injury, or health concern which makes it difficult for you to get to class on time, let us know as soon as possible. Attendance is mandatory to all lectures, discussions, and labs. Please know there is no way to redo a lab if it is missed. Notify the Instructor and/or GSIs as soon as possible about any known or potential extracurricular conflicts (such as religious observances, family obligations, graduate or medical school interviews, or team activities). In the event of an unavoidable conflict the GSI will attempt to arrange a makeup assignment, but this may not always be possible. If you have

more than 2 unexcused absences from lab, you will automatically fail this course. Excluding the case of emergencies, notification of missed classes requires notice at least 48 hours before the start of the missed class.

Late Assignment Policy:

It is the student's responsibility to schedule a time to turn in late assignments. All assignments will receive a maximum of 50% of their original points if received within 48 hours of the due date/time but will not be accepted afterwards. If unable to turn in the assignment in person within 48 hours, the student can email a scan or picture of each page of the assignment and deliver the paper copy when possible. If the digital file is unreadable it will not be accepted. Late assignments will receive minimum feedback.

Extensions:

If you have another major assignment due the same day, a prohibitively heavy work schedule, a major life event, a medical procedure, an unforeseen emergency, or another conflict with the due date of an assignment, please request an extension as soon as possible (please plan ahead!). If you need an extension please email me by 12 noon at least 3 days before the due date (if possible) or as soon as possible in emergency situations. We will work out extensions on a case-by-case basis. We understand that life is unpredictable and that you have many other responsibilities outside of this class. If in doubt, request an extension! Better to plan ahead and not use it than to find yourself unable to complete an assignment.