Syllabus BIOL 3339 – 001
Plant Biology
Fall 2022

Meeting Times: TuTH 11:00AM – 12:20AM (Must meet in person, no zoom lectures)
Location: Braithwaite Bldg (BRB) Room 01025
First Day of Class: Monday, August 22nd
Last Day of Class: Friday, December 9th
Date to Withdraw Without Penalty (Census Date): Friday, September 2nd

Instructor:
Jared Dickson, M.S.
Lecturer, Department of Biology
Office: BEP Room 104.
Email: jdickson@uttyler.edu
Office Hours: Wednesdays 10AM – 1PM and by appointment

Course Description: This course focuses on plants, their unique features, their diversity, and how they profoundly influence all life on Earth. The goals of this course are for students to understand what makes a plant a plant and to appreciate the ways in which plants make life possible for humans and life on Earth in general.

Student Learning Objectives: By the end of the class, you should be able to…
1) Describe what a plant is and how plants are different from animals
2) Describe a plant cell, its parts, and its unique features
3) Explain how a plant cell captures energy (photosynthesis)
4) Describe the main groups of plants and how they differ from each other
5) Understand the significance of plants to you and your life, and be able to use your knowledge of plants to make informed decisions

Required Materials
- *Plant Biology, Third Edition*, published by LJLM Press (Graham, Graham, and Wilcox, authors)
  - Available exclusively for download through this link:
  - Cost: $40.
  - Do not print out the book. It is designed to be read directly on your computer, laptop, smartphone, or tablet.
- A reliable high-speed internet connection that you can access on a regular basis.
  - If you do not have a reliable high-speed internet connection:
    - The computer labs will be open on campus.
      - The computer lab in the library has the best hours. It is open every day of the week. Most weekdays it is open from 7:30AM until midnight! The schedule is here: [https://ask.library.uttyler.edu/faq/190062](https://ask.library.uttyler.edu/faq/190062)
      - Access to the computer labs may be disrupted if the university has to suspend in-person operations due to COVID-19.
    - There will also be WiFi available in some of the campus parking lots.
- Access to a laptop or desktop computer or a tablet on a regular basis.
  - You must be able to access reliable, high-speed internet on your laptop or desktop computer or tablet on a regular basis, with generous data usage (no low data caps!).
  - It is not permitted to take this course using only your smartphone.
  - See above about the computer labs on campus, if needed.
- Headphones or speakers that work on your laptop or desktop computer or tablet.
The speakers may be built into your device (internal), or you may need to add external headphones or speakers on your own.

The bottom line is that you will need some way to hear sound on your device that accompanies the videos you will watch.

- If you cannot access these materials, you **cannot** take this course. Changes to the assignment deadlines will **not** be made if you lack (even temporarily) access to these materials, except in some exceptional situations specifically related to COVID (see the COVID section below). Missing deadlines will result in zeros on the assignments and these zeros cannot be changed.

**Grading:**
Three exams, each worth 15% of final grade (worth 45% of final grade when added together)
One comprehensive final exam, worth 25% of final grade
Quizzes, worth 10% of final grade when added together
Graded in-class exercises, worth 10% of final grade when added together
Participation, worth 10% of final grade

**Total: 100%**

- 90% – 100% = A
- 80% – 89% = B
- 70% – 79% = C
- 60% – 69% = D
- < 60% = F

**Attendance and make-up policy:** “Attendance” in this all-online course means handing in multiple assignments, every week, by the deadlines, and “attendance,” in this sense, is mandatory. **No late work will be accepted.** Even though this course is entirely online and self-paced, there are strict deadlines to follow that require your regular participation. The deadlines are **not** flexible. You are expected to plan ahead and do your work ahead of time. You are expected to **not** wait until the last minute. Problems with your tablet/laptop/desktop or internet connection or Canvas, problems with scheduling for your job(s) or other classes, car problems, problems with child care, or personal or medical problems will not be accepted excuses for missing the deadlines. In general **no** excuses will be accepted, except under extraordinary circumstances at my sole discretion. Missing the deadlines means you will receive zeros on the missed assignments and these zeros cannot be changed. **There will be no make-up assignments or extensions.**

**Correspondence:** You are required to activate the email address that is listed for you on Canvas and to check it regularly. You must check this email address at a minimum every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning, for the entire duration of the semester, for any correspondence from me. You are also required to check the Canvas site for this course every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning as well, for the entire duration of the semester, for any announcements. You will be held responsible for any information, including deadlines, that I communicate to you via your email address listed on Canvas and/or through the announcements on the Canvas course site. The information could come from one or both places (email and/or Canvas announcements), so you must check BOTH places on the schedule indicated above.

**Due Dates and Deadlines:** You are required to have this course visible in your calendar on Canvas. To do so, make sure the box for the course has a check mark. You will be held responsible for all of the due dates and deadlines for this course that are indicated in your Canvas calendar.

**Lectures:** Lectures will be pre-recorded. You are responsible for watching and listening to the lectures on Canvas. The “watch by” dates of the lectures will be indicated. The lectures will be available at least 24 hours before the “watch by” date. You are expected to take notes as you watch the lectures!

**Quizzes:** Once you have watched/listened to a lecture on Canvas, there is a quiz for you to take, also on Canvas. The purpose of the quizzes is to make sure you watched/listened to the lectures carefully.

There will also be quizzes embedded into pre-recorded videos on Canvas. In other words, for these videos you will take the quizzes as you watch videos. The quiz questions will automatically pop up on your screen as you go along. The due dates of the quizzes will be indicated in your Canvas calendars. The videos with the embedded quizzes will be available at least one week before the due dates. The quizzes will tentatively be due every Monday and Wednesday evening throughout the entire semester.

**Graded Exercises:** There will be many exercises assigned during class. I will only grade some of these, but I won’t tell you which ones. This is because I want you to do your best on all of them regardless of whether they are being graded.
**Exams:** Exam formats are open to change. They could be multiple choice, short-answer + essays, or a mixture. They will cover anything from the lectures. You will take the exams on Canvas.

**Final Exam:** The final will be *cumulative*, meaning that it will cover everything from the whole semester, including new material since the last exam. You will take the exam on Canvas.

**Copying:** You can discuss your assignments with your friends or classmates whenever you want and you can discuss anything you want. But you, alone, are expected to write everything that you submit, by yourself, and everything that you submit must be in your own words. It is not allowable to hand in something as a group, or for all members of a group to each hand in the same thing. Any copying whatsoever from others, whether they are part of your study group or not, is entirely *prohibited*. You are *not* allowed to pass around your submitted assignments or drafts to anyone else to look at, *for any reason*, and you are also not allowed to look at submitted assignments or drafts of anything written by anyone else. These prohibitions apply to any materials submitted by students in previous years’ classes as well. These prohibitions also apply to any material from *any* source (newspaper, TV, website, professional journal, magazine, etc.) Simply putting everything in quotation marks does *not* get around any of these prohibitions, because *quoting is not allowed either, no matter what the source is!* If you hand in the same assignment as someone else, or if it is copied from someone else, even a little!, or if the assignment contains any quoting from any source, with or without quotation marks, you will receive a zero for the assignment and the person you copied from will receive a zero as well. I will not seek to determine who copied from whom; all persons with similar content will have the same penalty.

**Unicheck:** All assignments and appeals that you hand in will be checked for copying using a program called Unicheck™. This software checks the internet as well as every other student’s work who has ever taken this course or any other course. It also checks against any papers that are secretly traded or sold over the internet. The bottom line is that if you copy someone else’s or somewhere else’s writing, even a little, the software will catch you and it will give me the names of the other persons and/or the other copied sources.

**Privacy:** Students do *not* have the right to be “anonymous” whether classes are in person or online, or for all-online classes. All discussion will take place within Canvas, and your names will be displayed.

**Grade grubbing:** Grade grubbing will not be tolerated. I have quoted some relevant passages below about grade grubbing. They come from an excellent website that I recommend you read: [https://www.math.uh.edu/~tomforde/GradeGrubbing.html](https://www.math.uh.edu/~tomforde/GradeGrubbing.html)

Grade Grubbing (also called "grade begging" or "grade lawyering") is the act of a student going to a professor and asking for a grade to be raised for no legitimate reason. Often the student argues that they feel their work was "not graded fairly", or they made only a small mistake and should get more points, or they knew what they were doing even though they gave the wrong answer. Grade grubbing often involves asking for detailed justification of why certain points were taken off, questioning subjective aspects of grading (e.g., Why is this problem worth 5 points and this one worth 7 points?), and wearing down the professor by arguing, begging, and pleading until they finally relent and increase the student's grade.

…In addition, grade grubbing presents a very negative image of you: it indicates that you do not care about learning the material, and that all that matters to you is your grade in the class, even if you get that grade unfairly or when you do not deserve it.

Grade grubbing greatly affects the way your professors view you and the way they will treat you in the future. If you challenge your grade without a good reason, you will probably not be remembered fondly when you ask that professor for a recommendation...

…If an obvious error has been made in grading, such as points added incorrectly or a clearly correct answer was inadvertently marked wrong, then by all means talk to the professor and they will likely change your grade immediately. Likewise, if you don't understand why you lost points, or want clarification (not justification) of the grading, most professors are happy to talk with you. *And, if you want to discuss the material, learn what you did wrong, or discuss how to do better on future work, most professors will probably be thrilled to speak to you about this.*
However, if you are going to approach a professor who has spent their life studying, teaching, and doing research on a particular topic, and then argue that their decision of how to grade or award points should be changed to what you say it should be, then you better be prepared with a strong and convincing argument.

Source: https://www.math.uh.edu/~tomforde/GradeGrubbing.html

COVID
It is important to take the necessary precautions to ensure a healthy and successful year. UT Tyler continues to urge you to protect yourselves against the flu, COVID and any new threats that may be developing. Be diligent about preventive measures such as washing hands, covering sneezes/coughs, social distancing and vaccinations, which have proven to be successful in slowing the spread of viruses. Encourage those who don’t feel well to stay home, and if they show symptoms, ask them to get tested for the flu or COVID. Self-isolation is important to reduce exposure (CDC quarantine/isolation guidelines). Please work with your faculty members to maintain coursework and please consult existing campus resources for support.

Recording of Class Sessions
Class sessions may be recorded by the instructor for use by students enrolled in this course. Recordings that contain personally identifiable information or other information subject to FERPA shall not be shared with individuals not enrolled in this course unless appropriate consent is obtained from all relevant students. Class recordings are reserved only for the use of students enrolled in the course and only for educational purposes. Course recordings should not be shared outside of the course in any form without express permission.
Class schedule (subject to change):

Lecture Topics
Introduction
Plants and People
Plant Cells
Photosynthesis: Overview
Plant Structure, Growth, and Development
Stems and Materials Transport
Roots and Plant Nutrition
Leaves
Photosynthesis: Different Types of Photosynthesis
Plant “Behavior”
Reproduction and Life Cycles
Plant Diversity: Seedless Plants
Plant Diversity: Gymnosperms
Plant Diversity: Angiosperms
Animal-Plant Coevolution

Tentative exam schedule (subject to change):

Exam 1: Thursday, September 15th
• Introduction
• Plants and People
• Plant Cells
• Photosynthesis: Overview

Exam 2: Thursday, October 20th
• Plant Structure, Growth, and Development
• Stems and Materials Transport
• Roots and Plant Nutrition
• Leaves
• Photosynthesis: Different Types of Photosynthesis

Exam 3: Thursday, November 17th
• Plant “Behavior”
• Reproduction and Life Cycles
• Plant Diversity: Seedless Plants
• Plant Diversity: Gymnosperms

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 6th, 11:00AM – 1:00PM
• The final will be cumulative and cover:
o Everything from the entire semester, as well as:
o Plant Diversity: Angiosperms
o Animal-Plant Coevolution
UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT MUST APPEAR IN EACH COURSE SYLLABUS

UT Tyler Honor Code
Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

Students Rights and Responsibilities
To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: http://www.uttler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php

Campus Carry
We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at http://www.uttler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php

UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University
All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors.
Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kretaks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products.
There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit www.uttler.edu/tobacco-free.

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies
Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at http://www.uttler.edu/registrar. Each semester’s Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.
Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:
- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy
Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability/Accessibility Services
In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit https://www.uttler.edu/accessibility and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at http://www.uttler.edu/accessibility, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

Student Absence due to Religious Observance
Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities

Revised 05/19
If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement
It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation
Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Student Standards of Academic Conduct
Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

i. "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:
* copying from another student’s test paper;
* using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
* failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
* possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes". The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
* using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
* collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
* discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
* divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructor has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
* substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
* paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
* falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
* taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
* misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

ii. "Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for credit.

iii. "Collusion" includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

iv. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.

UT Tyler Resources for Students
* UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu
* UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu
* The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
* UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254)

Revised 05/19