

Biology 62: Plants and Human Welfare Online Syllabus

Spring 2020: Section 201, Reg ID #100945

Evergreen Valley College

Dr. Lisa Hays

Class Time/Location: On-line

Professor Name/Contact: Dr. Hays, email in Canvas or plants@doctorhays.com, 408-274-7900 x6585

Office hours: T/Th -9-11AM, 2:00 – 2:30PM. My office is in Sequoia Rm 103. We can also chat using Canvas through the EVC website.

Teaching Philosophy:

My philosophy is to provide you with a comfortable learning environment where you can not only listen, but speak. I want to be an enthusiastic teacher, share my love for science and inspire you to do your best in this course. I am open to hearing your concerns and needs and will respect your ideas.

About the Course:

This class is intended for non-biology majors who want to learn about plants and their impact on humans. Plants provide the oxygen we need to breathe and the food we need to eat. Students will see how genetics is important to the future of plants and human health. This is a lecture-only course.

Course Content:

Plant anatomy, flowers and fruits, genetics, nutrition, agriculture, plants for food, plants for material, medicinal plants, poisonous plants, algae, fungi and diseases.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, the successful student will be able to:

1. Identify the anatomical structures of angiosperms, gymnosperms, algae and fungi
2. Describe plant growth and reproduction
3. Analyze the advantages and disadvantages of genetically modified plants
4. Describe the major crops grown around the world and assess their use for human consumption
5. Compare the uses of plants for materials, health and pleasure

Academic Honesty Policy:

All homework must be your original thoughts and work. Do NOT copy from the textbook, other students or the Internet. If any work is copied, there will be ZERO credit given for homework.

Exams are written so that the questions are mixed each time a student takes it. Please keep your academic integrity high and do NOT share questions that you see on your exam with other students. Everyone should be working equally hard in this class.

Cheating: If I find a student cheating, I will automatically drop the student from this course. No exceptions.

Grading:

You determine your grade. I will make the exams fair and challenging. It is up to you to work hard and learn what I am teaching. Your grades will reflect the effort that you put into the class. There will not be extra credit available.

The grading scale will be based as follows:

88.00 - 100% = A
78.00 – 87.99% = B
68.00 – 77.99% = C
58.00 – 67.99% = D
below 58% = F

Grades are posted on www.doctorhays.com and updated every Sunday night. Please check your grades every week.

Students' Assignments:

There are four ways to get points in this class. Homework, on-line discussions, exams and a research paper.

Homework: 6 homework assignments (20 points possible for each assignment)

1. See the Class Syllabus for date when homework is **due**.
2. Homework is turned in using **Canvas** on the EVC website.
3. **No** late homework accepted. **Warning:** There are absolutely no exceptions: computer not working, sick, working late... If you are worried about being late, please turn it in EARLY.
4. Canvas will check to see what percentage of your homework is copy/pasted from the Internet. When submitting homework, look for the "**similarity index**." **10%** is the maximum. Any homework 11% or greater will be given zero points. I want to see what was learned, not what was found online.
5. If the number is greater than 10%, simply re-write your answers in your own words. Canvas is set to let you resubmit your homework. However, you can NOT resubmit after the due date/time.
6. When asked to **draw in the homework** question, you can draw it by hand and take a photo, draw it with a drawing program, or draw it and scan it with the other answers. Anyway you like is fine but it has to be drawn by you.
7. Please put time and **effort** into this homework. It's not hard, but it takes time. Brief, short, 1 sentence answers are unlikely to get full credit. It is important to write a few sentences or paragraph where appropriate.

Grading:

- ❖ 20 points for outstanding work with complete answers and excellent effort
 - ❖ 15 points for acceptable work with mostly complete answers
 - ❖ 10 points for poor work but some effort involved
 - ❖ 0 points if not turned in by due date or if exactly the same as another student
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- ❖ I will do my best to grade homework within 3-4 days. I will send an announcement to the class when I am finished.

Exams: There will be 6 exams. Exams are composed of 50 multiple choice questions.

5 of the 6 exams (50 points each) are given on Canvas. You can access Canvas from www.evc.edu. If you have trouble logging in, please call the ITSS Help Desk at 408-270-6411. They only answer the phones until 7PM so be sure Canvas is working for you if you decide to wait until night to take your test.

1. There is a time limit of **50 minutes** for the Exam. Once you begin, you can't stop.
2. Be sure to have a good Internet connection ready, your materials nearby, and 50 uninterrupted minutes available.
3. I will accept **NO excuses** for unfinished exams. Students who do not finish for any reason will not be able to retake an exam.
4. The exam is open for 16 hours. You can take it any time between 6AM and 10PM on the day listed in the class schedule. However, you must be FINISHED by 10PM so do not start later than 9:10PM.
5. The exam is set to let you see all of the questions at the same time. This way you can browse through the exam and change your answers.
6. Be sure to press SAVE and SUMBIT at the end of the exam.

Exam #5 must be taken on campus. Since this is a fully on-line course, EVC requires one exam to be proctored with the student showing a photo ID. The exam will be offered on 2 days to help fit your schedule. See the syllabus for dates/times. It will be an "old fashion" exam with paper, pencil and a scantron #882-E. There will be 50 questions just like the other exams.

The Exam Index Card

For the exam, students may choose to bring one 3X5 index card filled with information from the class. There are rules for the card.

1. It must be handwritten by YOU.
2. You may write on the front AND back.
3. There can be NO photocopies taped to the card.
4. I will review/measure the card if I doubt it is the correct size.
5. Index cards must be turned into instructor at end of exam.

Failure to follow these rules will result in disposal of the index card.

Tips on how to take the online exam

Study hard! Learn the material as best as you can. Whatever you have trouble remembering should go on **one** piece of paper.

With a time limit of 50 minutes, do not plan on using the book, or lecture notes, or web searches to find answers. Students who try to use these resources typically fail to finish the exam. They spend too much time browsing through material. It's best to study the material like an on campus class.

There will be **no make up exams**.

Participation on-line: Since this course is on-line, you are required to participate in discussions using our class Canvas page. You can get to Canvas by going to www.evc.edu and then look on the right side. I will post Discussion topics and you are required to post a comment to my ideas, design your own topic or reply to another student to get credit. Students are also required to read all posts.

On the dates listed in the schedule, which is approximately every 2 weeks, the discussion boards will close at 10PM. Any postings after 10PM will be considered as part of the next due date.

4 points - TWO or more substantial postings each due date, original and thoughtful analysis, and clear, fluent writing. Asking an advanced question is also worthy of points. Answering a question is also a way to get points.

2 points - ONE substantial posting each week, original and thoughtful analysis, and clear, fluent writing. Asking and answering questions are also good.

0 points - short/minimal postings, no postings, or asking basic questions, or answering with a simple "yes" or "no"

No points are given to students who post the same thing already mentioned by another student. You can add to a discussion about the same topic with more information. This makes more of a conversation which is helpful to our learning new things about plants. Read previous posts to make sure you aren't repeating their information.

Only 2 posts are required with each deadline but you can write more if you like. The maximum points possible at each due date is 4. Most students get the full 4 points simply by participating. If your post is not reaching the standard that I expect, I will send you a message to let you know.

As part of our on-line etiquette, please be careful when posting links to websites. Sometimes websites have good information, but the advertisements on the page are inappropriate. Remember that the whole class will be directed to the site and we need to avoid spam and viruses.

Research Paper: 50 points. During the third week of class you will receive information about the 5-6 page paper due at the end of the semester.

Course Materials

Textbook: Levetin, E and K. McMahon, *Plants and Society*, 6th edition, 2012 or the newer 7th edition, 2015.

Lectures: These are my recorded voice and Powerpoint notes. They are typically 45 minutes long and are found on my website www.doctorhays.com. They require a password that you will receive during the first week of school. Please do not share the password with students outside of our class.

Students' Responsibilities

Communication: Since we do not meet on campus, it is important that we keep a discussion going between the students and professor. Using Canvas, students can post questions to each other or to the professor. If you want to reach me directly, please send an email to me using Canvas. I usually answer within 24 hours, but not on the weekend.

You will be kept inform if I am attending any conference out of town or missing class because I am sick.

If you prefer, we can set up a time to chat using Canvas.

I will address questions and comments submitted with assignments and assessments at the time the assignments are due. Grades are updated on www.doctorhays.com by Sunday night each week.

Commitment: Each student who is enrolled in this class should be committed to doing his/her best in the course. With this commitment, you will succeed in the course and find that you will be proud of yourself for putting out your best effort.

This is a 3 unit course. As a general guideline, it is expected that each unit of a college level course will require 3 hours of your study time each week. This means that you will spend 9 hours/week studying for this course. Some students require more and others less. In either case, I want you to be aware that you will need to devote ample time to learning this material.

Disabilities: If you have a learning or physical disability, be sure to contact the Disabilities Support Program to begin the proper paperwork – 408-270-6447 - then come and discuss your disability with me.

Dropping the Course: If you decide to drop this class, you must use MyWeb to remove yourself from this course. I will not be dropping students. Students who stop coming to class and yet continue to stay enrolled will potentially receive an F in the course.

Classroom Etiquette

Diversity: Together, we will make our classroom a “safe” place to be. We all need to be aware of the diversity of the students in our class and the issues that may need to be addressed. Issues that are apparent to me are: gender equity, cultural diversity, learning and physical disabilities, international students, and re-entry students. What this means is that we must all have respect for one another and be aware of how our behavior will affect those around us.

Studying: Most of you are not science majors and may not know how to best study for this class. Here are ideas for you to consider:

1. Some students like to read/watch the book/video over and over and over. This is one way to study, but it does not test you on what you have learned.
2. Some students make flashcards for key terms and details. Flashcards must be simple with a term on the front and a definition on the back. Study the cards from front to back AND back to front. A multiple choice question typically gives the definition (back of the card) and asks the student to name the term (front of the card).
3. Some students work with others to discuss what they have memorized. This is a way of testing to make sure you learned the material and it also helps you to teach others. Teaching is an excellent way to master the subject.
4. Some students re-write the notes to reinforce learning.
5. Some students draw pictures with terms and use colored pencils to help them memorize key concepts and terms.
6. It is important to have OUTPUT of information as a way to learn. Practice writing from memory what you have learned. The exam is just that – showing me what you remember. If you are to run a race, you would practice running a few miles every day. If you are to take an exam, you need to practice using the information you have learned in a test-like manner. Your OUTPUT includes the homework assignments.
7. Some students write their own exam questions after reading the material. This way they can “practice” taking an exam and it also helps them prioritize the worthy information.
8. When doing the homework, remember that is another method of helping you learn the material. Write more questions and answers than are assigned to help you consolidate the topics of the Lesson. Draw more pictures if you like that type of learning.