

# Biology 101-1: People, Plants and Food (Spring 2019)

**Lecture:** Tuesday and Thursday 10:00-11:50, Schaefer 109

**Lab:** Thursday 1:00-3:50, Schaefer 108

**Instructor:** Rose Keith

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Office hours: MF 11:30-1:00, W 10:30-11:45. If you're not available during these times, please email me to set up a meeting.

**Course description:** How does the biology of plants inform how we grow our food? How have humans altered our environment and the plants that we grow in order to feed ourselves? In this course, we will investigate these questions, while becoming comfortable with how scientists ask questions and analyze and interpret data.

## Course objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Discuss what plants need to grow, and how agricultural practices provide for these needs.
2. Discuss how people have altered plants over time to better suit human uses.
3. Analyze and interpret data.

## Course policies

Course materials: All course materials will be available on Blackboard. Some days will have short readings and/or videos to read or watch before class; those will be listed and linked to in the course schedule. Unless otherwise discussed before the assignment is due, all materials should be turned in in hard-copy in class the day they are due.

Attendance: The participation grade will be partially based on attendance. Attendance will not be tracked for lectures, but frequent absences will inevitably result in less participation. The benefit of the lab activities is dependent on you being there to participate in them; if you expect to miss a lab, please contact me in advance if possible. For excused absences for illness or sports, there will be opportunities to make up the participation points. If other extraordinary circumstances cause you to miss a lab, please contact me.

Late work: Generally, work that is turned in late without permission will have a penalty of 5% on that assignment for each day that it is late. However, every person in the class gets one "freebie"--one chance to hand something in two days late with no penalty. That applies to any assignment aside from one that involves presenting in class. On the day that it's due, just let me know that you want to use your freebie.

Accommodations: If you have documented accommodations, I'll be happy to work with you to support those. Please talk to me about it as soon as possible so that I can make sure we have a plan in place.

Laptops and devices in class: Using laptops in class is allowed; however, there is a significant body of research that shows that most students don't learn as well when they take notes on laptops, and so I discourage you from doing so. There may be some in-class activities where

you can work from your laptop instead of printing them out; however, if you get distracted it will result in a lower participation grade. I do not want to see phones out in class or lab unless there is a specific reason you need to be using it for class activities at that point.

## Assignments

Grades for the course will be based on the following:

Exams	15
Final	10
Worksheets	15
Lab assignments	12
Participation	10
Pre-class questions	5
Paper	7
Teaching the class:	
Preliminary plan	3
Teaching	8
Activity	7
Written outline	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Exams: There will be two in-class midterm exams. For both, you may bring up to five pages of paper on which you can include any information you wish, which you may reference during the exam.

Final: The final will meet during our assigned time, and will be cumulative. As with the exams, you may bring up to five pages of reference material.

Worksheets: There will be various problems or worksheets that you'll complete either in class or for homework. Most of these will be graded for effort/completion, although some may be graded for correctness.

Pre-class questions: These will be posted on Blackboard as tests. A set will be due by 8:00 AM every day that we have class. These will be 2-3 questions about the current course material; full credit will be given for completion.

Participation: Participation grades will be based on engagement in lab and class. If you are focused on the work and complete in-class and in-lab assignments, you'll do well.

Lab assignments: Many lab activities will include a written worksheet or report. Details on formats will be given each week. Each assignment will be due Thursday the week after your lab.

Teaching the class: During the final week of class, you will work in groups of two or three to teach the class on a topic of your choice. More details will be given out later in the semester. Briefly, you'll work together to figure out a topic that interests you and teach it to the class. You'll plan a lesson of about 50 minutes that will include background information and at least one class activity. The grade will be based on a preliminary plan that you'll turn in for feedback, the lesson that you teach, the activity that you include, and a final written outline/explanation for your lesson.