

## BIOL 4100/6100 MORPHOLOGY OF LAND PLANTS SPRING SEMESTER 2012

Instructor: Dr. Carter  
Office: BC 1105  
Telephone: (229) 333-5763 or 5338  
<http://www.valdosta.edu/~rcarter/>

*Office Hours:* BC 1040 (or BC 1105)  
10:00 – 11:00 AM Mon, Wed, Fri  
Other times by appointment



### *Weekly Lecture and Lab Schedule*

Mon: Lec 1:00 – 1:50 PM, BC 1025  
Wed: Lec 1:00 – 1:50 PM, BC 1025  
Lab 3:00 – 5:50 PM, BC 2040  
Fri: Lec 1:00 – 1:50 PM, BC 1025

**Course description.** Prerequisites: BIOL 1107 and BIOL 1108. Study of vegetative organization and reproductive cycles of bryophytes, pteridophytes and seed plants, which incorporates phylogenetic and ecological relationships. [3-3-4]

Contact hours: 150 mins lecture & 170 mins lab per week.

Credit hours: 4 sem hrs credit.

**Course objectives.** The student should gain an understanding of the vegetative organization, reproductive cycles, life history, and ecology of representatives of the various plant phyla, and the evolutionary origins of the plant kingdom, and the BT P

**Course Requirements and Policies**  
**Use of BlazeVIEW as a course supplement.**  
Blaze

requests. Any scheduling problems or other extenuating circumstances necessitating chronic tardiness should be explained to the instructor in writing and properly documented at the beginning of the semester.

In order to have an absence excused, the student must provide a written explanation with proper documentation immediately upon returning to class or laboratory. Based upon the written explanation and associated documentation, the instructor will determine whether the reason for absence is valid and will excuse absences accordingly.

Students are reminded that it might not be possible to make up certain laboratory exercises, and, whenever possible, the student should clear an absence and request permission for a makeup with the instructor prior to the actual absence. In accordance with Valdosta State University Absence Regulations on pp. 89-90 of the *2011-2012 Undergraduate Catalog*, students absent from more than 20% of the regularly scheduled lecture and laboratory periods are subject to failure in the course:

<http://www.valdosta.edu/catalog/1112/ugrad/index.shtml>

*Mor*

on observations, by recording data accurately and systematically, and by making diagrams and drawings.

**Field trips.** Two all-day Saturday field trips will be scheduled. *Attendance on these field trips is optional, but strongly encouraged.* In addition to enabling students to observe representatives of the major plant groups in the field, these field trips will provide the opportunity for students to earn *extra points*. Following are recommendations for field trips.

Wear old clothes, including long pants, and sturdy shoes or boots.

Use insect repellent (with DEET).

Immediately upon returning from fieldtrips, students are urged to check their bodies thoroughly for ectoparasites (i.e. ticks) and, if possible, to shower.

Bring bottled water, especially for all-day trips.

Bring food, especially for all-day trips.

**Examinations.** Three major examinations will be given. Approximately half of each exam will be based on lecture material, and half on laboratory material. Dates for exams are provided in the course schedule.

**Course notebook.** The *BIOL 4100/6100 Laboratory & Course Guide* will comprise the nucleus of the course notebook. Each student will be required to submit a course notebook, including all assigned diagrams and drawings, the results from any other laboratory assignments, and completed short answers and essays in the *Guide*. The course notebook should be maintained in a large three-ring binder, and is due at the beginning of the Final Examination period.

**Course project.** Each student will be required to complete a research project and to submit a written report on the results of her/his research. The report may be in the format of a poster or a research paper. A *brief proposal* for the research project is due at the beginning of the lecture period Monday, 23 January 2012. Projects are subject to the approval of the instructor and should be discussed well in advance of the proposal due date. If applicable, students are responsible for obtaining permission to access properties where their research will be conducted, for providing their own transportation to and from field sites, and for their own safety and well-being while engaged in field research.

**Grading.** If a student thinks an error has been made in grading an examination, quiz, or any other assignment, s/he should communicate about this directly with the instructor *within one week* of the instructor's returning of the graded examination, quiz or assignment. In determining the final course grade, a 10-point scale is normally used (i.e., 90–100=A; 80–89=B; 70–79=C; 60–69=D; <60=F), and the final course average is calculated as follows.

Examinations	80%
Course notebook	10%
Course project	<u>10%</u>
Total	100%

Meeting the minimum point requirement for a letter grade does not necessarily assure that the student will receive that grade. Assignment of the final grade is the prerogative of the instructor and will be based upon each individual student's overall performance, including patterns of consistency, trends toward improvement, and positive attitude as shown through attendance, participation, and cooperation.

**Access to laboratory.** Students will be granted access to the General Botany Laboratory (BC 2040) after hours until 11:00 PM on weekdays and until 9:00 PM during weekends. Frequently, the outer door near the northeast corner of the Bailey Science Center is unlocked after hours; check this door first. If the outside doors are locked, then students should contact the University Police Department or a university police officer and present a valid student identification card upon request in order to gain entry into the building. A numerical code will be provided by your instructor, which will enable access to the General Botany Laboratory. Access to the laboratory after hours is a privilege; it is not a right. If problems occur with regard to safety, security, neatness, or general order in the lab, then this privilege will be revoked. It is up to each student to see that materials, slides, microscopes, etc. are properly cared for and replaced for proper storage.

**Students with disabilities.** Students requiring class-room accommodations or modifications because of documented disabilities should discuss this need with their professor at the beginning of the semester. Disabled students who are not registered with the Access Office for Students with Disabilities should contact the Access Office, Farber Hall, telephone (229) 245-2498 (V/V/P) and (229) 219-1348 (TTY).

