



Instructor:

Dr. Frank R. Hensley

fhensley@mc.edu

Office Phone: 601.925.7355 (I answer e-mail more promptly)

Office: Hederman Science Center 206 & 207

Office Hours: 10:00-11:00 MWF, other times by appointment

Meeting time: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays at 11:00 AM in Hederman Science room 100.

1. Course Prefix, Number, Name and Credit for Lecture or Laboratory hours.

BIO 105 Plants and People, Credit, 3 sem. hrs.

2. Prerequisites for course.

None.

3. Course description from the university catalog.

A survey of the uses of plants in human societies throughout the world. This course will not count toward a major or minor in biology although it will count as a non-laboratory core science course for non-science majors. This course taken concurrently with BIO 106 will meet the core curriculum four-hour laboratory science course requirement.

4. Rationale for Course.

Plants and People is a science course designed for non-science majors. Its central missions are science literacy and issue awareness. Plant biology is taught with limited technical

detail, in the context of how people depend on plants for food, fuel, medicine, and ecosystem services. A democratic society needs educated voters in order to govern for the good of the citizens and the good of the country's environment, and Plants and People class is designed to give Mississippi College students an opportunity to enhance citizenship via science education. Further, Christians are called to effective stewardship of God's world; Plants and People class teaches scientific principles in the context of stewardship of the earth.

5. Student objectives and outcomes.

- Explain the attributes of life and the major groups of organisms.
- Summarize the chemistry of life.
- Explain plant cell structure and cell division.
- Summarize the basic morphological and anatomical features and life cycle of flowering plants.
- List the centers of origin of economically important plants and state how some of these plants formed the basis of agriculture in different human cultures.
- Describe advantages and risks of genetically modified plants such as golden rice and BT corn.
- Summarize plants as a source of medicines and drugs of abuse.
- Describe aspects of the production of chocolate, coffee and tea.
- Explain the characteristics of traditional agriculture, intensive agriculture, and modern sustainable agriculture.
- Explain how the earth's climate works, and how it shapes plant distribution patterns.
- Explain the role of plants in the production of fossil fuels, and the role of fossil fuels in climate change.
- Analyze the potential for plant-based fuels, compared to other alternative energy sources, to shape future energy use patterns and climate change trends.

6. Academic Integrity Statement.

Mississippi College students are expected to be scrupulously honest. Dishonesty, such as cheating or plagiarism, or furnishing false information, including forgery, alteration or misuse of University documents, records or identification, will be regarded as a serious offense subject to severe penalty, including, but not limited to, loss of credit and possible dismissal. See the *Mississippi College Student Handbook* or Policy 2.19 for specific information regarding penalties associated with dishonest behavior at Mississippi College. Copies of the *Mississippi College Student Handbook* are available on the web and in the Office of the Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, Nelson 313. Copies of

policies are available on the Mississippi College web site.

7. **Outline of topics to be covered in course.**

- Characteristics of plants and other living things
- Chemistry of life
- Plant cell structure
- Cell division
- Cell respiration and photosynthesis
- Flowering Plants & Plant Ecology
- Crops
- Plants and climate change

8. **Methods of Instruction**

Traditional lectures are supplemented with small group work on case studies, data sets, and short readings. Students are required to engage with classmates to answer questions in written and oral formats.

9. **Required Practices**

Successful students will read assigned texts with attention to detail, and to ask questions both in class and electronically. Taking notes while reading and during class sessions is a key practice for engaging the concepts. Students will engage in small groups to discuss and analyze information, and then write and speak to summarize their efforts. Reflecting on group dynamics is an additional skill that students should practice. Regular independent study outside of class will be essential preparation for quizzes and exams.

10. **Instructional Materials**

Required Textbook

Plants And People. 2012. J. Mauseth. Jones & Bartlett Learning.

Supplemental Materials:

Facebook group for this class:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/PlantsNPeople/>

11. **Methods of evaluating student progress.**

Student grades are based on 5 exams (100 points each) and on quizzes, in-class participation, homework, and attendance (100 points total). The top 4 quiz scores (40 points) are counted; lower quiz scores are dropped.

Participation grades are reduced by 5 points per absence. More importantly, the number of absences determines whether quizzes may be made up. See the policy on absences in section 15, below.

12. Accommodations

Special accommodations at Student Counseling Services:

In order for a student to receive disability accommodations under Section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act, he or she must schedule an individual meeting with the Director of Student Counseling Services **immediately upon recognition of their disability** (if their disability is known they must come in before the semester begins or make an appointment **immediately** upon receipt of their syllabi for the new semester). The student must bring with them written documentation from a medical physician and/or licensed clinician that verifies their disability. If the student has received prior accommodations, they must bring written documentation of those accommodations (example Individualized Education Plan from the school system). Documentation must be current (**within 3 years**). The student must meet with SCS **face-to face** and also attend two (2) additional follow up meetings (one mid semester before or after midterm examinations and the last one at the end of the semester). Please note that the student may also schedule additional meetings as needed for support through SCS as they work with their professor throughout the semester. Note: Students must come in **each semester** to complete their Individualized Accommodation Plan (example: MC student completes fall semester IAP plan and even if student is a continuing student for the spring semester they must come in again to complete their spring semester IAP plan).

Student Counseling Services is located in Alumni Hall Room #4 or they may be contacted via email at mbryant@mc.edu or rward@mc.edu or by phone at 601.925.7791.

13. Exam schedule.

Friday	9/13/13	Exam 1
Wednesday	10/2/13	Exam 2
Monday	10/28/13	Exam 3
Monday	11/18/13	Exam 4

Friday	12/13/13	Final Exam 8:00-11:00
--------	----------	-----------------------

14. Grading scale.

Minimum percentages required to earn letter grades are as follows:

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

Final percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percentage. For example, 89.50% rounds to 90% and earns an A, but 89.49% rounds down to 89% and earns a B.

15. Other:

a. Attendance/Participation Regulations

Class attendance/participation is an essential part of university/graduate education, and students are expected to attend/participate regularly and punctually all classes and laboratories for which they are registered. Cumulative absences/non participation may result in a lowered grade or loss of credit for the course. Tardiness is also subject to penalty. Although some specific requirements may vary according to the nature and structure of the course, the following guidelines summarize institutional policy:

- Class attendance/participation is required, and accurate records are kept.
- A student receives a grade of F in any course immediately upon accumulating the following number of absences in that class: 12 in semester classes meeting 3 times per week
- Any exception to this rule, granted only in extraordinary circumstances, must be approved by the Dean's Committee on Absences.
- For lesser number of absences/non participation, the student should expect a lowered grade in the course, with the maximum penalty of one letter grade for each week of absences (in a semester) or the equivalent. The calculation of the semester grade, including any penalty for absences, is the responsibility of the faculty member and may vary according to the nature of the course and the grading scale used. In some classes points will be deducted from the semester grade for unexcused absences; in others, the penalty may be built into the grading scale by means of frequent pop quizzes, grades for class participation and the like.

- See the Evaluation policy above for penalties for this course
- The faculty member will excuse a limited number of absences/non participation for serious illness, for field trips, for representing the University, and perhaps for other emergency reasons that the faculty member finds justifiable. Documentation is required for an absence to be excused.
- Whether an absence/non participation is excused or not, the student who is absent misses some learning that takes place in the class. Naturally, the faculty member is more inclined to assist the student in making up the work if the absence was excused. However, the responsibility for work missed rests entirely with the student.
- A student registering late will be charged for all absences/nonparticipation occurring prior to reporting to class, although these may be treated as excused absences.

b. Policy on make-up quizzes and examinations

EXAMS: Makeup exams are offered only in the case of documented excused absences and must be completed within 7 days of the missed exam. QUIZZES: Makeup quizzes are administered at the final exam. All students who have fewer than 5 total absences may make up any missed quiz, regardless of the reason they were absent (excused or not). If a student has 5 or more total absences, no makeup quiz will be available. The best four quiz grades count toward a student's final score. Missed quizzes score a zero.

c. Makeup Classes:

In the event that the professor must cancel a class session for any reason, a makeup class session will be offered. Makeup class sessions may be offered during early morning hours, evening hours, or weekends. If such a makeup session is offered, attendance is optional and absences will not count against a student's total attendance record. All students are responsible for any material taught during a makeup session, but attendance is optional.

d. Important college dates

Monday	9/2/13	Labor Day
Thursday	9/5/13	Last day to drop a full semester class with 100% tuition only refund

Friday	9/13/13	Exam 1
Wednesday	10/2/13	Exam 2
Monday	10/7/13	Fall Break
Wednesday	10/16/13	MIDTERM
Friday	10/25/13	Last Day to Drop
Monday	10/28/13	Exam 3
Monday	11/18/13	Exam 4
Wednesday	11/27/13	Thanksgiving
Thursday	11/28/13	Thanksgiving
Friday	11/29/13	Thanksgiving
Thursday	12/12/13	Study Day
Friday	12/13/13	Final Exam 8:00-11:00

e. Other course expectations

- As a courtesy to all, please limit the use of electronic devices during class to actual note taking on laptops, or to using electronic devices to complete in-class work as assigned. Other activities are not permitted and distract from the learning environment.
- During the semester this course is taught, the professor reserves the right to make any changes in the syllabus deemed appropriate or necessary, as governed by Mississippi College policies.
- Exam Policies: During exams students will not but permitted to touch or have visible any electronic devices (no cell phones, tablets, laptops, ear buds, headphones, Bluetooth devices etc.). Neither baseball caps nor any other headwear that obscures the face or eyes are permitted during exams. No bathroom breaks are permitted – if a student must excuse themselves from the room, then they must turn in their exam regardless of whether it is complete or not. Most exams and quizzes require use of a #2 pencil, and students are responsible for providing their own pencil. Pencils may be purchased in the Biology office.

16. Acknowledgement:

By signing this statement I certify that I have read and understood the syllabus for this course, (BIO 105 Plants and People, Fall 2013) including the attendance policy, and grading policy.

signature	date
-----------	------

printed name	MC #
--------------	------