

AGRO 110: Introduction to Plant Science (online dual-credit course)

Syllabus, Spring 2020

Instructor: Dr. Linda Brown, Professor

Virtual Office only

Office Hours: I am available most weekdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and by appointment.

Telephone (Cell phone for text messaging and/or calling): 502-232-3980

Please TEXT "Plant Sci, (your first and last names)" to me prior to calling. I do not answer the phone if I do not recognize the number.

e-mail: Linda.Brown@wku.edu

Course Objectives: The goal of this class is to familiarize students with basic plant science principals including: classification, utilization, and physiology of plants. Students will also be introduced to plant and soil relationships along with plant pests.

Required Text: McKenney, C., U. Schuch, and A. Chau. 2019. Introductory plant science: Investigating the green world. 2nd edition. ISBN: 978-1-5249-4038-6 PREVIOUS EDITIONS ARE ALLOWED

Attention to class materials and due dates: All work is expected to be done on time.

(1) Sometimes students tell me that technology has been their problem. The student is expected to have a reliable internet connection, a fully functioning working personal computer (laptop or desktop required, NO CHROMEBOOKS – these do not interface with course software, further a few things can be done on a smartphone, but you will not be able to produce and turn in work with that technology.) The student is expected to have the technology and to be familiar with it. Certainly, unforeseeable problems arise, like the WKU server goes down (I have never known that to happen), an ice storm takes out electricity across your area and you don't have the power to boot up your computer, or your hard drive crashes (this happened to me last semester). On a case by case basis, I will consider the circumstances and make adjustments that are fair, as I see it. (2) On occasion a student will be ill themselves, or have a family member in the hospital, or have a death in the family, that will detain the student from completing their work for a day or so. On these occasions, please email or text me your problem with as much detail as you are comfortable sharing, As Soon As Possible. I may need to check back with you or your school on details, however, I will try to make fair adjustments.

Make-up Quizzes &/or Exams: Make-ups will not be given. The student is given a window of time in which to take Quizzes and/or Exams. Since the course is somewhat self-paced, failure to take one of these assessments by the due date may indicate a failure in the process of pacing yourself or of planning.

The final exam: The final exam may be taken during the week ending May 15, 2020. It is comprehensive. Information tested on the final is split equally among the chapters that make up the course content.

Student Assistance: In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center (SARC) of the Downing Student Union, room 1074 or by phone

270-745-5004. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Student Accessibility Resource Center (SARC).

Class Etiquette: Students are expected to be professional at all times. Interactions with classmates, emails with the professor, and submitted work is expected to meet the professional standards of congeniality and respect, as well as good grammar and good sentence structure as are accepted today. This also includes maintaining academic honesty. According to the student handbook: “student who commits any act of academic dishonesty will receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the course work in which the act is detected or a failing grade in the course without possibility of withdrawal.” A student committing such acts in this class will receive a failing grade for the course.

Title IX: Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU’s Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at: WKU Title IX Policy and Grievance Procedure and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at WKU Discrimination and Harassment Policy Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are “Responsible Employees” of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU’s Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU’s Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

PLEASE NOTE: Previously, high school students with Chromebooks were unable to access the course delivery and test-taking programs with acceptable results. IF you only have access to a Chromebook, you should discuss this with your academic advisor at school, perhaps taking the issue to your principal and/or the Information Technology officer in your school or region. Do this immediately. The course will not be stalled while you resolve this technology resource issue.

To take this Online Course and succeed:

1. You must be familiar with Blackboard, the University’s online course-management and delivery program. If you are not, please contact the WKU Information Technology Website.
2. You must be able to view Microsoft Office PowerPoint and Word files, and have Adobe Reader capabilities for PDF files.
3. You should plan on spending a significant amount of time each week with your computer, participating in class. The learning is asynchronous so you do not have to be in front of your computer at the same time that I am, however, there will be deadlines and due dates for assignments, quizzes, and the like. Further, units of material are released on a timed basis such that keeping up is essential.

Tip: Make it a habit to check your Blackboard site for assignments, course documents, and other material from the first day of class.

Grading:

Introductions Forum (conducted via Discussion Board) (Assignment 1)	10 points
Demonstrated understanding on Chapter Quizzes (13@30 pts each)	390
Assignment: Introductory Assignment	5
Assignments 2-14 (13@15 pts each)	195
Final Exam	65
Total: 665 points possible	

Final Grades are assigned according to the following standard scale:

100-90% A, 89-80% B, 79-70% C, 69-60% D, 0-59% F

Schedule of Topics, Assignments & Due dates:

Student should do this:

on or before this date:

- Login to Blackboard at the AGRI 110 course site Jan 27
- Read the syllabus; **Complete Introductory Assignment** Jan 27-30
- Go to Discussion Board & post to Introductions Forum Jan 27-30
- Install Lockdown Browser on your computer Jan 27

Section Topic: The Science of Plants & Plant Structure

- Read Chapter 1 Jan 27 – Feb 3
- Respond to your classmates in the **Introductions Forum** Jan 27-Jan 31
- Take Practice (Syllabus) **Quiz** with Lockdown Browser Jan 27-30
- Chapter 1 **Assignment** due Feb 5
- Take the **Quiz** at the end of Chapter 1 Feb 7
- Chapter 2 **Assignment** due Feb 12
- Take **Quiz** at the end of Chapter 2 Feb 14
- Chapter 3 **Assignment** due Feb 19
- Take **Quiz** at the end of Chapter 3 Feb 21
- Chapter 4 **Assignment** due Feb 26
- Take **Quiz** at the end of Chapter 4 Feb 28
- Chapter 5 **Assignment** due Mar 4
- Take **Quiz** at the end of Chapter 5 Mar 6
- WKU University-wide **Spring Break** March 9-13
(feel free to catch up or work ahead during this time)
- Chapter 6 **Assignment** due Mar 18
- Take **Quiz** at the end of Chapter 6 Mar 20

Section Topic: Reproduction

- Chapter 7 **Assignment** due Mar 25
- Take **Quiz** at the end of Chapter 7 Mar 27
- Chapter 8 **Assignment** due Apr 1
- Take **Quiz** at the end of Chapter 8 Apr 3
- Chapter 9 **Assignment** due Apr 8
- Take **Quiz** at the end of Chapter 9 Apr 10

Section Topic: Physiological Processes

➤ Chapter 10 Assignment due	Apr 15
➤ Take Quiz at the end of Chapter 10	Apr 17
➤ Chapter 11 Assignment due	Apr 22
➤ Take Quiz at the end of Chapter 11	Apr 24
➤ Chapter 12 Assignment due	Apr 29
➤ Take Quiz at the end of Chapter 12	May 1
➤ Chapter 13 Assignment due	May 6
➤ Take Quiz at the end of Chapter 13	May 8
➤ Take Final Exam	May 15, 2020
➤ <i>Grades will be posted to WKU Topnet</i>	<i>Tues., May 19, noon</i>

IF you do not complete assignments by 11:59 p.m. on the dates listed above, your grade will be reduced by 50% of points otherwise earned.

You will note that there is one chapter covered each week with an assignment due on or before the Wednesday of that week, and a quiz at the end of that week. You may start, finish, and submit any work earlier than the dates listed. You may not submit any work later than dates listed.