<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week (M)</th>
<th>Lecture Topic &amp; Text Reading</th>
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| Aug 24  | Plants & autotrophs - a phylogenetic context  
Overview of the plant cell (Ch. 2, 3 & 4) |
| Aug 31  | Overview of the plant cell (continued)  
Meristems & plant growth & development; |
| Sept 07 | Ground, vascular & dermal tissues (Ch 22, Ch. 23)  
Primary root & stem anatomy morphology, & function. (Ch. 24, 25) |
| Sept 14 | Secondary (woody) growth in roots & stems; characteristics of wood. (Ch. 26)  
leaf morphology & anatomy (Ch. 25) |
| Sept 21 | Flower morphology (Ch. 25 p. 604-607; Ch. 19 p. 461-465;  
Ch 20 p. 492-497)  
**Test 1** |
| Sep 28  | Inflorescences & fruit morphology (Ch. 25 p. 604-607; Ch. 19 p. 461-465;  
Water and solute transport (Ch. 30) |
| Oct 05  | Plant nutrition and soils (Ch. 29)  
Plant hormones (Ch. 27) |
| Oct 12  | External factors & plant growth (Ch. 28)  
**Test 2** |
| Oct 19  | Photosynthesis (Ch. 7) |
| Oct 26  | Plant reproduction: Meiosis and the alternation of generations life cycle  
(Ch 3 in part, Ch 8 in part) |
| Nov 02  | Pollination and seed dispersal.  
Pollination Biology (Video & Exercise)  
**Test3**: |
| Nov 09  | The plant community & studying the plant community.  
Temporal change: disturbance, succession & ecosystem development. |
| Nov 16  | Interactions between plants, other organisms, & their environment |
| Nov 23  | **Thanksgiving holidays** |
| Nov 30  | Mapping & classifying vegetation & the vegetation zones of Texas. |
| Dec 07  | Final Examination Week: (Final = Test 4) |

Week-begin dates shown above are Mondays
**Instructor:** Dr. James Van Kley

**Course Description:** We humans, as living organisms, depend on the plant world to provide us with food, energy, wood, fiber and to sustain the rich web of life on our earth. Today, with increasing human pressure on earth's ecosystems, the ecological future of the earth may depend on decisions made by humans from our generation. For these reasons, a basic knowledge of life-processes and an awareness of the plant world is a vital part of education regardless of what profession one is preparing for. This course introduces you to Botany or Plant Science and will expose you to several of its sub-disciplines including the plant cell, and the morphology, anatomy, physiology & function, reproduction, and ecology of plants.

**Course Venue- D2L Brightspace:** Access your Brightspace frequently! With the exception of your textbook, D2L will serve All of our course content – including the lectures, copies of lecture PowerPoints, links, study quizzes, tests, important course announcements, this syllabus, your test and quiz scores, and the course’s email. Pay particular attention to the D2L news items. I will use them for important course announcements!

**Office:** Room 115 Miller Sci. As the course is offered online and my office hours are virtual, only in rare cases will I schedule face-to-face meetings in the office. Face masks and social distancing are required in the unlikely instance of such a meeting. Zoom or telephone meetings are preferred.

**Course format:** In the interest of reducing the spread of COVID 19 the course will be taught online and following an introductory ZOOM meeting, mostly asynchronously (you will be able to access the course content and do course activities at your convenience within a given time-period. Lectures will be in the form of screencast-videos where I lecture using PowerPoints just as I would do in a face-to-face class. I will also show a ‘nature documentary’ video relevant to topics covered to conclude each of the 4 units of our course. Each screencast or video will be accompanied by a required ‘study quiz’.

**Email:** jvankley@sfasu.edu (permanent) AND the D2L Brightspace email for this course. I will monitor both emails but using the course’s D2L email may be preferable as you will not be competing with other (often numerous) non-course messages and I will be monitoring the D2L email more frequently especially during office hours. While I may monitor and answer emails during weekends and holidays, I will do so less diligently than on workdays and will not always answer as promptly, possibly waiting until the next workday.

**Office hours:** Tues & Thurs, 8:30-11:00 am. To reduce the spread of COVID 19 my office hours will be virtual: I will be present in a course chatroom (see your D2L Brightspace), monitoring email frequently, and available to initiate a ‘one-on-one’ ZOOM meeting or phone call upon demand (requested via email or chat).

**Textbook:** Raven Evert & Eichhorn, 2013. *The Biology of Plants*, 8th edition. See the course schedule in this syllabus for the required reading assignments.

**Major Tests:** There will be four non-cumulative major tests, 3 of them worth 1/5 of the lecture grade, your best score doubled to be 2/5 of the grade. Tests will be given through D2L brightspace and will be available to take during a limited time-slot corresponding to our formally-scheduled class meeting time (see schedule). Once you start a test you will have a limited time (typically 40 minutes) to complete it. Tests are ‘open-book-open-notes’. Students with disabilities that require them to spend more time on tests are should contact Disability Services to arrange such accommodations. The exact test date will be also announced in D2L Brightspace during the week prior to the test. Study quizzes (see below) will not be timed.

A student cannot properly prepare for a profession by cheating. Cheating includes any form of communication regarding the course with anyone except myself during the 4 online major tests. Tests are ‘open book’ so accessing your notes, the lectures or any other relevant materials during a test does not constitute cheating (but it does consume your valuable test-time so be careful!) The MINIMUM penalty for cheating is a ZERO (see University policy A-9.10, below).

**Study Quizzes:** Each lecture presentation or video will be accompanied by a required study quiz-exercise. Since the quizzes are as much for study aids as for evaluation, you will be able to take the quiz multiple (typically up to 10) times and the highest score earned will be the one counted. Each quiz will have a deadline. Quizzes taken after the deadline (I may allow a grace period of several hours) will count as an “absence”. I also will deduct ‘late penalty’ points from late quizzes. Second and subsequent attempts may be done after the deadline without penalty as long as the first attempt was on time. Access to the quizzes will ‘end’ the evening before the next test. You will no longer be able to access and get credit for a quiz after the end time -and will be given an additional ‘absence’ for missing it. Take the quizzes and deadlines seriously; your quiz scores for a given test-unit contribute 10% of your total test grade!

**Bonus points:** I will give regular SI attendees (>50 of sessions in a given test unit) a 1% bonus toward the next test. I also may award bonus points for other benchmarks such as good “attendance” high quiz scores, correct answers to certain
questions etc. If such bonus points are made available, the means of earning them and the specific number of points will be announced beforehand in D2L.

**Final Grades:** When calculating your lecture score I will **double your best test**: \( \text{Lecture Score} = \frac{(2 \times \text{T-best}) + \text{T2} + \text{T3} + \text{T-worst}}{5} \). The lecture grade (Biol 2361) will constitute \( \frac{2}{3} \) and the lab grade (from Biol 2061) \( \frac{1}{3} \) of the total grade for the entire lecture and lab course sequence and will be the posted grade for both Biol 2361 and 2061 (lab). After calculating your total percentage \( \frac{2}{3} \times \% \text{ of points from lecture} + \frac{1}{3} \times \% \text{ lab percentage} \), final grades will be determined as follows: Total percentage > 90% = A; 89% - 80% = B; 79% - 70% = C; 69% - 60% = D; <60% = F.

There will be no extra credit assignments in this course. Make-up tests will be allowed only for students with excused absences. Quizzes will “end” the evening before a given test and you will not be able to take them after that. Only students participating in University-sponsored events or those with a serious illness, family emergency, or a serious conflict will be granted an excused absence. You must provide verification from a family member, University official or doctor to be excused. Please inform me beforehand if you know you must miss a test. I am much more flexible when I know of an absence beforehand. Students with unexcused absences will receive a ZERO for any missed tests.

**Attendance:** Regular participation in the course and engagement with the content is essential to success in this course. I will be monitoring course engagement and assigning **‘virtual absences’ for missed activities**. These will include 1) not having entered the course on D2L at least once in a given week (excepting thanksgiving week), 2) missing any required ZOOM meetings, 3) missing the deadline for a study quiz for a lecture or video, and 4) failing to take a quiz at all and missing its ‘end-date’ (thus each quiz can potentially trigger 2 absences, one for missing the deadline, one for never taking it.

I will consider attendance for students with borderline grades: For example, a student with excellent attendance and a score of 79 may receive a "B" rather than a "C". University and Departmental policy states that instructors may fail students who miss more than 3 weeks of class for ANY reason; I therefore reserve the right to fail any student with 10 or more ‘absences’ for the lecture section.

Student evaluations help us improve courses; participation in the anonymous on-line course evaluation at the end of the term is required. Students who do not participate will receive a 1% deduction from their final score.

**Supplemental Instruction (SI):** SI plans for this course are pending. If it goes forward, meetings will be virtual, most likely via ZOOM. Bonus points (1% point per test) will be awarded to regular SI attendees.

**Student Learning Outcomes for Biol 2361:**
1. Students will be able to understand the structure and functions of plant tissues, and tissue systems.
   Links to Core Objective 1.
2. Students will be able to understand the internal anatomy and external features (morphology) and function of plant roots, stems, leaves, flowers & fruits; they will be able to describe & quantify morphological features of images or specimens. Links to Core Objectives 1 and 3.
3. Students will understand the principles of photosynthesis, including a knowledge of energy molecules (ATP and NADPH); the light reactions including its products and byproducts; the Calvin Cycle and its products; the relationship between the light reactions and Calvin Cycle; and C 4 and CAM photosynthesis. Links to Core Objectives 1 and 3.
4. Students will gain an understanding of basic plant reproduction, including the concepts of life cycles, alternation of generations, gametangia, sporangia, and specialized reproductive features. Links to Core Objective 1.
5. To introduce students to the concepts of plant communities, ecosystems, succession, and interactions among plants with each other, other organisms, & their environment. Links to Core Objective 1.

**Program Learning Outcomes:** Each course student learning outcome listed above corresponds to the Biology Department PLO 1- to develop knowledge of biological concepts.

**General Education Core Curriculum Objectives:**

**CO1- Critical Thinking Skills.** Includes creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.

**CO2- Communication Skills.** Includes effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.

**CO3- Empirical and Quantitative Skills.** Includes analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.

**CO4- Teamwork.** The ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.

**Academic Integrity (A-9.1):** Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.
**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

**Students caught cheating in this course will, at a minimum, be given a ZERO for the test/quiz in question. I will also formally report all cheaters to the administration.**

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54):** Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average. The circumstances precipitating the request must have occurred after the last day in which a student could withdraw from a course. Students requesting a WH must be passing the course with a minimum projected grade of C.

**Students with Disabilities:** To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).

**Acceptable Student Behavior:** Classroom or online behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior including ‘trolling’ will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class or be blocked from online resources and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom, chatroom, or online forum. Students who do engage in the course regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/tests may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

**Masks & COVID19 Precautions:** This particular course section is online and automatically socially distanced. However, any face-to-face activities in this class, however unlikely, are subject to the following policy: Masks (cloth face coverings) must be worn over the nose and mouth at all times in class or office meetings and appropriate physical distancing must be observed. Students not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be asked to leave. All incidents of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Students who are reported for multiple infractions of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing may be subject to disciplinary actions.