A close up of a flower

Description automatically generated**Professor Kristin Bingham**

**Associate Professor of Biology**

**Department of Biology**

**South Plains College**

**Box 86**

**Levelland, TX 79336**

**BIOL 1411.001 & 002 General Botany**

**Course Description:** Fundamental biological concepts relevant to plant physiology, life cycle, growth and development, structure and function, and cellular and molecular metabolism. The role of plants in the environment, evolution, and phylogeny of major plant groups, algae, and fungi. Laboratory activities will reinforce these same concepts to ensure comprehension. (ACGM 2018)

**Instructor: Kristin Bingham, Assistant Professor of Biology**

**Contact me:**

* **Office:** Science 85
* **Office Hours:** 
  + Tuesday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
  + Thursday 9:00 am – 11:00 am
  + Friday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
    - To meet with me virtually during office hours, send me an email to schedule an appointment.
    - I am available by appointment outside of these hours – please don’t hesitate to email me if you would like to schedule a meeting outside of these times.
* **E-mail:** [kbingham@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:kbingham@southplainscollege.edu) – to be used in case of emergency
* **Office Phone: (**806) 716-2308 – leave a message.
  + Professor may be unavailable from noon on Friday until 7:00 am on Monday as well as on college holidays.

**Required Course Materials:**

**Text:** Stern’s Introductory Plant Biology with Connect Access code, 15th Edition. Bidlack Jansky. E-book with Connect access code ISBN: 9781260488616

* **Textbook:** The textbook and resources for this course are available in digital format through the Inclusive Access textbook program at South Plains College. That means the e-book edition of the textbook and/or all required resources are provided to students through Blackboard from the first day of class. The fee for the e-book/resources is the lowest price available from the publisher and bookstore and is included in the student tuition/fee payment. Therefore, students do not have to purchase a separate textbook or access card for this course.
* **E-book features:** Access to a cloud-based e-reader is provided by RedShelf via Blackboard. RedShelf e-book features include the ability to hear the text read aloud, highlight, take notes, create flash cards, see word definitions, build study guides, print select pages, and download up to 20% of the book for offline access. Visit <https://solve.redshelf.com/hc/en-us/requests/new> for e-book issues and support.
* **Opting out of Inclusive Access:** As long as they meet the opt-out deadline, students may choose not to participate in the Inclusive Access program if they have a textbook from another source. Students should check with the instructor for advice before deciding to opt out because Inclusive Access is the cheapest option for most students. Students should also find out whether course work is required in an online platform like *Mindtap* or *Connect*. If so, students who opt out would be required to purchase access to that platform in addition to acquiring the e-book on their own. To opt out of the Inclusive Access e-book/resources, students need to email [tfewell4texasbookcompany@gmail.com](mailto:tfewell4texasbookcompany@gmail.com) before the census date. Students must include their first name, last name, student ID number, and the course they are opting out of in the email. Once students have been opted out of Inclusive Access, they will receive a confirmation email. Students who need assistance to opt out should contact the SPC Bookstore. The Inclusive Access fee will be refunded to students who opt out before the census date for their term of enrollment. The census date for fall and spring is the twelfth class day. The census date for shorter terms varies between the second and third class day.

**Additional Required Materials:** You will need reliable access to the internet, as well as a computer with afunctioning webcam and microphone. **NOTE:** Mobile devices (i.e.phones) may not be used fortaking quizzes or exams.

**POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND RULES**

This course will be conducted according to the policies and procedures of the South Plains College Student Handbook and General Catalog.

**Course Content:**

* **Blackboard is the primary source for course information.** We will use additional programs such as Connect (McGraw-Hill), EdPuzzle, etc. for activities throughout the semester but all assignments will be listed on Blackboard and linked from Blackboard.
* **Students need to access Blackboard regularly. Google Chrome is the preferred browser for use with Blackboard and will be REQUIRED when/if exam are taken off campus.**
* Specific course materials available include PowerPoint lecture slides, lecture videos, reading assignments, messages and announcements from the instructor, study aids, quizzes, lab exercises, etc.

**Communication Policy:**

* For individual communication, **I prefer to use Blackboard Course Message**. Please send me a course message with your questions or concerns throughout the semester.
* As a backup, I would also ask you to send me an email during the first week of classes in case I am unable to reach you within Blackboard. Your email should include:
  + Subject line: Firstname Lastname – BIOL 1411.00X 🡨 Your specific section number here (either 001 or 002) and the subject of your message.
  + A greeting – I prefer either Professor Bingham, Mrs. Bingham, or Mrs. B.
  + In the text of the message, please let me know how I can help you.
  + I check my messages throughout the day Monday – Friday and I generally respond to emails within 24 hours or less except for on weekends and holidays.
* For group communication, I will use **announcements on Blackboard** and send a copy to your email listed in Blackboard. Please be sure this is an email that you regularly access.

**Attendance Policy:**

* Regular Class Meetings:
  + Punctual and regular attendance is expected for these meetings. Students should make an effort to attend all in person lab sessions and complete all online materials on time.
  + Absence from lab meetings will be noted and any work submitted will be given a grade of zero.
  + I maintain an “open door” policy – if you are running late, still come to class. Open the door and come in.
  + Quizzes may be given during the lab period. Students who are late may not take the quiz.
  + Students are expected to be attentive and working during class sessions. Students studying for other classes, browsing the internet or otherwise misusing electronics, sleeping during class or leaving class early will be considered absent for the class period.
  + Any student absent for more than **4 class days** (for any reason) or absent every class period for two weeks may be administratively withdrawn from the class by the instructor with a grade of X or F.
  + Excessive, continued absences and/or tardiness are not tolerated. Students are responsible for all material covered during any absence. PowerPoints and recordings of lectures are available on Blackboard – use these obtain material missed due to an absence.
* Blackboard Material:
  + Course material is arranged in Exam Units on Blackboard (Exam 1, Exam 2, Exam 3, Exam 4)
    - Each Exam Unit is divided into Weekly folders. The folders have the dates of that week listed (for example, Week 1 – 8/30/21 to 9/3/21) so you can keep up with where we are working.
  + You will work each to complete the assignments by the date they are due. Each week you will find an assignment checklist posted – print this/save it and use it as a **checklist** to be sure you have done all assigned work for that week.
  + Regular and consistent interaction with online lessons and textbook materials is necessary for satisfactory achievement. All assignments should be submitted by the due date and time. All times listed are Levelland local times (Central Time).
* Students who enroll in a course but have “Never Attended” by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of “X.”

**Hazardous Weather Policy**

* South Plains College rarely cancels classes due to weather. Students should plan accordingly to be able to attend all classes and arrive at SPC Levelland safely.
* Announcements concerning cancellations and/or delays are made on local television, radio and on MySPC. Emergency notifications are also made by the college via email, text, and phone call. I will post any delays or cancellations on Blackboard.

Know this – I am incredibly dedicated to your success in this course. I want to hear from you. I want to talk to you. I want to see your face regularly. We have labs where we will get to interact – use this time to ask me all your questions and to get clarification on material! I will make every effort to accommodate you, but you must communicate with me. I can’t help you if I don’t know there is something that isn’t working for you.

**Course Grade Policy:**

* The grade for this course will be based on:
  + Four Exams (worth 100 pts. possible each)
  + Quiz Average (worth 100 points)
  + Assignments Average (50 points)
  + Lab Submissions Average (50 points)
* There are 600 total points possible for the semester. The grading scale will be as follows:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Letter Grade** | **Course Average\*** | **Semester Points** |
| A | 90 - 100 % | 540 to 600 |
| B | 80 - 89.9 % | 480 to 539 |
| C | 68 - 79.9 % | 420 to 479 |
| D | 60 - 67.9 % | 360 to 419 |
| F | 0 - 59.9 % | 0-359 |

**\*Course Average**: Calculated by adding the seven grades indicated, then dividing by 600 (the total points available in the course). This gives the student’s final average grade in the course. If a student's final average *is less than* one-half of one percentage point away from the next higher letter grade, the instructor will refer to total points earned during that semester to determine final grade. There are NO curves in this course.

**Exam Policy:**

* Each major exam will cover material from lectures and labs during the unit.
* Material from lectures will include multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, matching, and true or false questions, as well as diagrams to complete. Lab material on exams will include questions asking you to identify structures, label diagrams, name the organism, and resolve classifications.
* Your score is recorded as the number of (points earned/total points possible)\*100. This number is the number of points you will have earned for this exam.
* The Final Exam/Exam 4 will be given during final exams week. The final exam for this course **IS COMPREHENSIVE**.

***Online proctoring of major exams*** *–* Exams in this course will be given during our class meetings. Should we be required to take an exam online, we will use online proctoring. Students will be required to have a webcam (USB or internal) with a microphone when taking an exam. Students understand that this remote recording device is purchased and controlled by the student and that recordings from any private residence must be done with the permission of any person residing in the residence. To avoid any concerns in this regard, students should select private spaces for the testing. There are locations at SPC campus that offer secure private settings for recordings and students with concerns may discuss location of an appropriate space for the recordings with their instructor. Students must ensure that any recordings do not invade any third-party privacy rights and accept all responsibility and liability for violations of any third-party privacy concerns. Setup information will be provided prior to taking the proctored exam. **See exam testing procedures below.**

**Online Exam testing procedures:** The following table lists conduct requirements for any online exams, as well as conduct violations. In general, behave as if you are taking the exam in a classroom with your professor in the room. Please note, you will only be responsible for this **IF** we are required to take an exam at a distance. You should expect your exams to be in class.

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| **Exam conduct requirement** | **Consequence for violation of exam conduct** |
| Microphone turned on and recording. | A 30% penalty will be given for an exam taken without the microphone being turned on and recording throughout the entire exam. |
| Sufficient lighting of the testing area. | A 30% penalty will be given for an exam taken without enough lighting for the instructor to assess the testing environment. Additionally, if the students full face is not visible during the exam will receive a 50% deduction of their score. Take all bathroom breaks, etc. before beginning the exam and make sure to check your camera position. Take all bathroom breaks, etc. before beginning the exam. |
| Student remains in webcam view during exam. | A student who leaves the webcam view during an exam for any reason will receive a zero for that exam. Take all bathroom breaks, etc. before beginning the exam. |
| No unauthorized materials near desk area. | A student who has any unauthorized materials (books, notes, blank paper, phone, earbuds/headphones, another computer, etc.) near the testing area will receive a zero for that exam. |
| No talking with others during the exam or playing of music or other audio recordings. | A student who has any music or audio recordings playing during exams, or who talks with any ADULT for any reason during the exam, will receive a zero for that exam. |
| The exam is taken in an approved proctored environment. | Any exam taken without either the webcam software or in an approved testing center will receive a zero for that exam. |

* I will provide a practice activity prior to giving you the first online exam so that I can educate students about proper testing behavior. This suspending of consequences is done as service to students to prevent unintentional or honest mistakes during subsequent exams. Consequences will be suspended *only* on that specific activity as it is meant to be a practice for you to familiarize yourself with the secure exam proctor. **I will provide feedback on any violations.**
* **Any student who thinks that a penalty was misapplied can request that the penalty be reviewed according to the Grievance Procedure listed below in the document.** 
  + If you experience technical difficulties, please contact me immediately. You can also reach out to Blackboard for help if the issue is with the platform. When taking exams, Proctorio’s chat function is a life saver – talk to them FIRST! Should issues arise that are out of your control (i.e. Blackboard shuts down indefinitely), I will adjust assignment availability and due dates as appropriate.
  + To learn more about Proctorio please visit: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/instructional-technology/students/Proctoring.php>

**Quiz Policy:**

* Quizzes will be given frequently throughout the semester, including (but not limited to) lecture quizzes, reading quizzes, video quizzes, lab quizzes, and others as necessary. Quizzes will be listed on your Assignment Checklist each week in Blackboard. You will have ONE ATTEMPT to take a quiz. If you experience any technology interruption or issue while taking your quiz, you should screen shot what you see and message me immediately. If I receive your message before the due date, I will reset your quiz attempt. This is a good reason to take your quiz early.
* Spelling counts on quizzes (and all work you submit to me). Taxonomy lists are provided with your course materials. There is no reason for misspelled words in a college course. Use your lists, use good grammar, and use proper English, or you’ll lose credit.
* Your quizzes will be combined and averaged and are worth 100 points toward the course grade.
* **Quizzes CANNOT be made up if missed for any reason. Missed quizzes receive a grade of zero. Plan ahead – check your Weekly Assignment Sheet – Note your due dates!**

**Other Assignments Policy:**

* Assignments include Connect homework exercises, discussions, lab submissions, and EdPuzzle videos. All assignments will be posted with clear instructions, including how many points each is worth.
* **Lab Submissions**
* You may be required to complete labs online and at times submit lab reports through this semester. These may be in the form of completed worksheets, scanned documents/PDFs, and photos. You must be able to upload a photo/document and submit it for this course.
* Each lab submission will be graded for completeness, accuracy of information, how well you followed directions, and proper use of the English language.
* Your Lab Submissions will be combined and averaged and will be worth 50 points toward your overall grade this semester. I will determine the number of point you earn using the formula: Lab Grade = Lab Avg/2.

**Make-up Policy:**

* If you miss an assignment, quiz, fail to upload your lab submission, or miss an exam, you will receive a zero for that assignment. You will not be able to make up or retake the missed item. **NOTE:** If you have an extenuating circumstance (i.e. You’re in the hospital, you wake up to a flat tire and are going to be late getting to Levelland to take the exam, etc.) that prevents you from taking an exam or submitting your work on time, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss this. Should you be allowed to submit late work, each late submission will receive an automatic penalty of **-10 points**. Late work will only be accepted by the end of the exam unit in which it was assigned. If you have questions, I encourage you to discuss this with me.

**Drop Procedure:**

* An official drop initiated by the student before the Last Day to Drop (**December 2, 2021**) will result in a W on your transcript. Any drop initiated by the instructor for excessive absences will result in either an X or F grade on the transcript. See the school policy on drops and the limit placed on “unexcused” drops which is available in the General Catalog on the school website. Students can drop a course online by completing the [Student Initiated Drop](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ZrGRbWrP6UWeIqAmJdCCqRkmPIpp6AVCixFJfcqITt9UODExTUFXS0JOODhJOTlYM0NEV1kzRk9GMS4u) form.

**Student Conduct:**

* Student Code of Conduct Policy: Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others’ behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.
  + A high standard of conduct is expected of all students. It is assumed that obedience to the law, respect for property, authority, personal honor, integrity, and common sense will guide the actions of each member of this class. Any student who fails to perform to the expected standards will be asked to withdraw from the course or will be administratively dropped from the course by the instructor.
  + Students should respect the academic situation and be considerate of others in the classroom. Late arrivals should seat themselves quietly and without disruption to the lecture. During lecture, students should refrain from talking, eating, or any other behavior that will disturb others, including the instructor. Students should be alert, taking notes and paying attention during lecture, videos and discussions.
* **Electronic Devices**
  + ALL electronic devises should be silenced inside the classroom. Devices that may be out during lecture include laptops, tablets, and in *special circumstances*, cell phones.
  + If an electronic device goes off repeatedly during lecture or lab, **5 points will be deducted from the student’s next major exam grade per incident.**
  + If a device is being utilized for anything other than what is being covered in class that day, the student will be dismissed from class and will receive a 0 for the day. If a student is a repeat offender and cannot control their electronics usage out of respect for others, the student will be dismissed from the course.
  + **Phones and smartwatches must be put away during exams. Earbuds should not be worn at ANY time during class.**
  + **You may NOT record the lectures, labs, or take photos/videos of the instructor without my expressed permission.**

My electronics policy may seem strict but it is my experience that students who are distracted during class (texting, listening to music, online shopping, etc.) don’t do as well as students who are actively paying attention. In fact, most students who have earned a D or an F in this class have been consistently absent or distracted during class. This is YOUR education for YOUR future that YOU are paying for, please come to class prepared to work; I will do the same.

**Academic Integrity (from SPC General Catalog)**

It is the aim of the faculty of South Plains College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own any work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

**Plagiarism and Cheating:** Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, examinations, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

* Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or a mail order term paper mill;
2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
4. Missing in-text citations.

* Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet, apps, any secondary device) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage;
5. Taking an examination for another;
6. Altering grade records;
7. Copying another’s work during an examination or on a homework assignment;
8. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else’s paper.

**Grievance procedure:**

* If a student is having a problem with the course policies or the instructor, he or she should *first* try and resolve any such problems with the instructor. If the problem is not resolved, the student may proceed to the Biology Department Chair, who can advise the student on how to resolve the problem or direct them to the appropriate office.

**Copyright Notice:**

* All material presented by the instructor in the course is copyright protected. The material presented by the instructor may not be modified or altered in any way. You have permission to print out one copy of any material presented by the instructor in this course (ex. course information sheet, contact information, and learning module checklists). The one copy must only be used for your personal educational use during this semester. The material may not be altered or modified in any way. The material may not be distributed in any way. You have permission to download the same material to your computer hard drive or other medium in order to print out the material needed. Any material downloaded may not be altered or modified in any way. The downloaded material may not be distributed in any way. If any course material is found on other websites, this becomes an act of academic misconduct and will be dealt with appropriately following the guidelines of the college concerning academic integrity.

**Lab Safety:**

* Each student will be informed/trained on the “Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) for Laboratories at South Plains College” documentation and training during the first week of the semester. Each student will be required to acknowledge receipt of this information and be required to follow all procedures outlined by the instructor and/or staff of South Plains College. Students not complying with any regulation may be dropped from the course.

**COVID-19 Statement:**

* If you are experiencing any of the following symptoms please do not attend class and either seek medical attention or get tested for COVID-19.
  + - Cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing
    - Fever or chills
    - Muscles or body aches
    - Vomiting or diarrhea
    - New loss of taste and smell
* Please also notify DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN, Associate Director of Health & Wellness, at [dedens@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:dedens@southplainscollege.edu)or 806-716-2376.

**Diversity Statement**

* In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

**Disabilities Statement**

* Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Reese Center (Building 8) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

**Non-Discrimination Statement**

* South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College, 1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX  79336. Phone number 806-716-2360.

**Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement**

* If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education.  To activate accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Director of Health and Wellness.  Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors.  It is the student’s responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations.  Contact the Director of Health and Wellness at 806-716-2362 or email [cgilster@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:cgilster@southplainscollege.edu) for assistance.