

PLNT 1213
Introduction to Plant, Range and Soil Sciences
Spring 2004

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Office hours: My office hours will be from 2:30 –5:00 on Tuesday and Friday. However, if you need to make an appointment, please contact me at class. Voice mail and email (shavejm@okstate.edu) are always available.

Required material: There is no text to buy. Your course notes and most readings are available only on-line. A 3-ring notebook is required. You should probably buy a ream of paper. Additional notes, handouts, and readings will be provided during lecture. You are responsible for downloading all notes and readings prior to class and for receiving the additional handouts given in class.

Internet access: Lecture notes, homework, readings and handouts will be provided via the internet (<http://plnt1213.okstate.edu>). You will need to know your email address and be able to use (or learn to use) an email program and learn to navigate on the internet. The webpage also provides links to lecture slides and links of interest. There are public computer facilities throughout the campus that have the appropriate programs to access all information for this class. The posting of material will be announced in class and in the announcements section of the webpage. If you have difficulty accessing any material, please let me know immediately.

Style of teaching: Major points of the course will be emphasized in lecture and will be the primary source for exam questions. You are responsible for reviewing the notes and completing the assigned readings prior to class. Class will be taught with this assumption. Readings may be discussed as part of lecture, but regardless you are responsible for the general information contained within them. These readings will be part of the exams.

Exams: The one-hour-exams will be a combination of essay, short answer, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank and True–False questions.

Quizzes: There will be 12 – 16 unannounced quizzes. You will keep only the top 10 quizzes to count toward your grade. The format will be similar to that of the exams and homework. There will be no make-ups for missed quizzes. Please print your name, date and quiz number in the upper right hand corner.

Homework: Throughout the semester, homework assignments will be announced in class and distributed on the internet. They will serve to improve your problem solving and writing skills and to enhance the learning of material covered in class. When homework is submitted you must print your

name at the upper right hand corner along with the assignment number and the date submitted. All assignments should be done on separate paper than the questions (unless otherwise indicated) and must be stapled. (I do not have a stapler in class.) Do not submit the questions with your assignment. Writing assignments must be typed. Additional requirements or modifications may be given with each assignment. Each infraction will result in one deducted point. Be sure you know how to access and utilize a computer on campus. Ten percent of the possible points will be deducted for each day late, including weekends. After class is considered one day late.

While I encourage you to discuss assignments with other students, each student must submit their own independent work. Independent work is judged by answers provided, formatting, grammar and word choice. Plagiarism and copying of homework will be dealt with as directed in the student rights and responsibilities.

Evaluation: Your final grade will be determined according to the following:

Hour Exams (3 x 100)	300 points	(35%)
Comprehensive Final	150 points	(18%)
Quizzes (10x10)	100 points	(12%)
<u>Homework</u>	<u>300 points</u>	<u>(35%)</u>
TOTAL	850 points	(100%)

The final letter grade will be based upon a percentage of the 850 points for the semester:

760 points = A	675 points = B	590 points = C
505 points = D	Less than 505 points = F	

Attendance: Attendance is expected and recommended as much additional information and clarification is provided during the lecture hour. Attendance is required for in-class assignments (to be announced) and for exams (see syllabus).

- There will be no make-ups for missed quizzes.
- Exams may be made-up only with an excused absence.
- Homework which is assigned more than 1 class period before the due date is due as usual. If the homework is assigned in the immediate class period before the due date, it may be turned in late with an excused absence.

An excused absence is one in which:

- you will miss class for an OSU-sponsored academic activity and for which I must be notified in writing within one week before the exam, or
- you are absent for a family emergency or personal illness and for which a written explanation must be personally delivered upon return to school.
- Work is not an excused absence.

A copy of all written explanations for an excused absence must be attached to the back of your makeup exam or to the homework that is to be submitted early or late. Make-up exams will be of a different format (10 essay questions, for example) than the general test and will be given at a specific time to be determined by the instructor.

Examination dates:

Exam 1---Friday, February 13th

Exam 2---Friday, March 12th (Friday before spring break—make travel plans accordingly.)

Exam 3---Friday, April 16th

Final Exam---Monday May 3rd, 10:00–11:50

Academic Integrity: I recognize the fact that you know the benefits and rewards of independent work, including homework, quizzes and exams. In the unfortunate circumstances that the academic honesty policies of Oklahoma State University are broken and appropriate action is needed, it will be handled by the stated procedures of the University without delay.

Drop policy: Drop policy will be as outlined in the OSU Official Drop Policy.

- Last day to drop with no record on transcript is Tuesday, January 20th (for full refund).
- Last day to drop with automatic “W” is Friday, April 9th.
- Last day to drop from all courses with “W” is Friday, April 9th.
- Last day to drop from all courses with instructor assigned “W” or “F” is Friday, April 23rd.

Grades are available on-line: We will be using a software program called blackboard.com to manage course documents and grades. This software provides you the opportunity and responsibility to personally review your recorded grades, and to calculate your course grade. Access to your grades is password protected and may be viewed by no one else unless you give up your password. If upon reviewing your grades you would like to discuss them further, do not hesitate to speak with me. Homework will be returned using a folder system. The assignments may be picked up before or after class or you may stop by Andrea’s office in 165 Ag Hall. Please return the signed agreement found at the end of this syllabus.

Special Accommodations for Students: If any member of this class feels that he/she has a disability and needs special accommodations of any nature whatsoever, I will work with you and the Office of Student Disability Services, 326 Student Union, to provide reasonable accommodation to ensure that you have a fair opportunity to perform in this class. Please advise me of such disability and the desired accommodation at some point before, during, or immediately after the first scheduled class period.

Topics to be covered. The following is a list of very general and very broad topics to be covered in this course. An individual topic may take 2, 3, 4...10 or more lectures to cover depending upon the amount of material in that section, the discussion, interest and understanding. The lecture notes, lecture slides, handouts, readings of interest and relevant homework will be made available on-line as each topic is covered.

Systems
Organizing systems—hierarchy and scale
Ecological hierarchies
Energy flow
Photosynthesis
The nature of light
Maximizing light capture
Energy partitioning within the plant
Energy flow through the lifecycle of a plant
Energy storage
Passing energy on
Plant improvement-setting objectives
Cycles
Water cycling
Connecting plants to the water cycle
Maximizing water capture
Irrigation
Quality versus quantity
Plant improvement-genetic variation
Nutrient cycling
The carbon cycle
Essential nutrients
Nitrogen cycle
Maximizing nutrient utilization
Plant improvement--selection

This page will be torn out and turned in: Print your name_____

With the large number of students in this class, it takes a great deal of time to return papers to individual students. To maintain confidentiality, graded assignments are placed in alphabetical order in a vertical filing system at the front of the classroom for you to retrieve. The folders are placed there before class only on days an assignment is returned and are removed after class. You will have the opportunity to retrieve your graded assignment before or after class, or you may see your instructors during office hours to retrieve the assignment.

Please check the appropriate box below:

- I agree to have my homework returned in the method described.
- I do not agree to have my homework returned in the method described.

You may securely access your grades on-line at anytime, and they are available to immediately upon posting. To do so we will be using a software program called blackboard.com. Access to your grades is password protected and may be viewed by no one else without the password. This is also a convenient way for the instructor to keep track of the grades and to calculate course averages etc.

- I agree to have my grades posted in the method described.
- I do not agree to have my grades posted in the method described.

Please sign here_____