

SYLLABUS

PLSC 420, PRINCIPLES OF PLANT PATHOLOGY, FALL 2011

Instructor: Dr. Yilmaz Balci, 2114 Plant Sciences Building. Lab: 2180 & 2184

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Office hours: By appointment via email.

Teaching assistant:

Course schedule:

Lectures: Tuesday & Thursday, 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM, Plant Sciences, Room 1119

Lab: Tuesday (0101), Thursday (0102), 12:30 PM– 3: 15 PM, Plant Sciences, Room 1153

Required Text: Essential Plant Pathology, Gail L. Schumann & Cleora J, D’Arcy, APS Press, 2007.

Course information: The objective of this course is to introduce the different types of plant pathogens, their biology and the type of diseases they cause and their management. Fundamental concepts of their development, spread and management will be discussed by examining scientific papers or via guest lectures which will present contemporary problems and approaches taken on the particular disease problem. PLSC 420 serves as a basic course for students planning to take additional course in plant pathology and as a breadth course for students whose primary interest lies in the general area of biology and/or plant health management. Students interested in environmental problems, ecosystem functioning and learn about factors affecting plant health will find this course very informative.

Laboratory: The laboratory will emphasize fungus related disease problems by hands-on exercises using specimens collected during the field trip, diseased material brought in by the instructor as well as mounted specimens. During the lab isolation will be attempted from diseased material for identification, and identification of the organism. The lab practices will include a field trip to nearby forest and isolation of nematodes. Conducting a pathogenicity tests and reproducing the disease symptoms is also part of lab assignments. There are **No** team or joint projects in the course.

Exams and Grading: The final grade for this course will be based on a total of 1000 points. A= \geq 90%; B= 80-89%; C= 70-79%; D: 60-69% and F= <60%.

<u>Lecture (60%)</u>	<u>Points</u>
Exams # 2	250
Final Exam #1	150
Weekly lecture discussions	200
<u>Laboratory (%40)</u>	
Lab exam #2	200
Lab reports and drawings	100
<u>Disease folders (independent work)</u>	<u>100</u>

Weekly lecture discussions: Each week, on Tuesdays a particular subject will be presented and a scientific paper provided for the Thursday lecture. On Thursday, questions will be asked and discussion initiated on relevant problems related to the weekly subject and paper provided in advance. Each student can collect 200 points throughout the class by answering or asking questions and actively participating in discussions.

Lab report and drawings: During the lab hours, students will make observations and fill in lab reports. Drawings are due the same day and each student has time to complete his drawings only during the lab hours.

Disease folders (independent work). After the 8th week, each student will work on four different disease problems independently during the lab hours provided. Samples brought in by the student should be diagnosed using macroscopic and microscopic features. A report should be included to the folder describing your observations and microscopic drawings or pictures taken by microscope in the lab. The folders will be graded based on the correct diagnostic and the way the information is provided.

The content of the report that accompany each studied specimen should include information such as 1) Significance of the problem, 2) Suspects (hosts), 3) Causal agent, 4) Known distribution, 5) Biology, 6) Epidemiology, 7) Diagnosis (symptoms and signs), 8) Control strategy, and 9) if relevant, examples of recent studies (obtained from professional journals).

Attendance and Missed Examinations.

Attendance and in-class participation are ongoing requirements and integral part of the work of the course. Consult the Universities Academic Requirements and Regulations in the current student catalogue for regulations regarding attendance and examinations [<http://www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/atedasse.html>]. **NO** make-up examinations will be allowed for unexcused absences. If the student cannot take an exam at the scheduled time, then the student must notify the instructor **PRIOR** to the date of the examination. Where a make-up examination is justified, that make-up exam will be scheduled within **FIVE** school days and must take place outside of the normal class time. Since laboratory exams rely upon materials that may be perishable a different type of exam may have to be administered.

Academic Integrity

The University is one of a small number of universities with a student-administered Honor Code and an Honor Pledge, <http://www.shc.umd.edu>. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. Compliance with the code is administered by the Student Honor Council, which strives to promote a “community of trust” on the College Park campus. Allegations of academic dishonesty can be reported directly to the Honor Council (314-9154) by any member of the campus community.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The University has a legal obligation to provide appropriate accommodations for students with documented disabilities. In order to ascertain what accommodations may need to be provided, students with disabilities should inform the instructor of their needs at the beginning of the semester. The instructor will then consult with the department chair and with Disability Support Services (314-7682), who will help to determine and implement appropriate academic accommodations.

UM Counseling services

Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance. These resources are available through counseling center (www.counseling.umd.edu).

Course Evaluation

There will be a mid Semester evaluation by the instructor to improve and address the student concerns. The University of Maryland evaluations [CourseEvalUM] begin for fall semester between, December 1 and 13. Students can go directly to the website (www.courseevalum.umd.edu) to complete their regular class evaluations.

Cell Phone Usage:

Cell phones, headsets and pagers are not to be used in the classroom. If you have any of these devices, they must be turned off during class.

V-1.00(G) UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND POLICY FOR A STUDENT'S
MEDICALLY NECESSITATED ABSENCE FROM CLASS

APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT 1 AUGUST 1991; AMENDED May 10,
2011

I. Policy

The University shall excuse class absences that result from a student's own illness. As explained below, the procedures and the documentation a student is required to provide to the class instructor for the purpose of obtaining an excused absence differ depending on the frequency of the absence.

II. Procedures

A. Medically necessitated excused absence from a single lecture, recitation, or lab per semester.

1. No written excuses or documentation from the Health Center shall be provided for absences from single lecture, recitation, or lab.

2. For a medically necessitated absence from a single lecture, recitation, or lab, students may submit a self-signed note to their instructor. Such documentation shall be honored as an excused absence unless the absence coincides with a Major Scheduled Grading Event. The procedure for a medically necessitated excused absence for a Major Scheduled Grading event is set forth below.

3. Any student who wishes to be excused for an absence from a single lecture, recitation, or lab due to a medically necessitated absence shall:

- Make a reasonable attempt to inform the instructor of his/her illness prior to the class; and,
- Upon returning to class, present their instructor with a self-signed note attesting to the date of their illness. Each note must also contain an acknowledgment by the student that the information provided is true and correct. Providing false information to University officials is prohibited under Part 9 (h) of the *Code of Student Conduct* (V-1.00(B) UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT) and may result in disciplinary action.

B. Non-consecutive medically necessitated absences from more than a single lecture, recitation, or lab.

1. At the beginning of each semester, the instructor shall establish a written policy for non-consecutive medically necessitated absences beyond a single lecture, recitation, or lab.

C. Prolonged Absence from Classes and/or Absence from a Major Scheduled Grading Event

1. A prolonged absence is defined as multiple consecutive absences from a course during a semester due to the same illness.

2. “Major Scheduled Grading Events” shall be identified by the instructor in writing at the beginning of each semester.

3. Students who experience a prolonged absence(s), as defined above or an illness during a Major Scheduled Grading Event as identified in writing by the class instructor shall be required to provide written documentation of the illness from the Health Center or from an outside health care provider. In cases where written verification is provided, the Health Center or outside health care provider shall verify dates of treatment and indicate the time frame that the student was unable to meet academic responsibilities. No diagnostic information shall be given.

D. Resolution of Problems

A student who wishes to contest a decision not to grant a medically necessitated excused absence should first try to resolve the issue with the class instructor. If the issue is not resolved with the instructor, the student should seek the advice of the instructor’s Department Chair; the Dean’s Office of the Department’s College; the Health Center Director; or the Department of Disability Support Services (DSS) Director, if the student is registered with the DSS, in order to identify the proper procedure for resolution.