

# Introduction to Botany. Lecture 1

Alexey Shipunov

Minot State University

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# Course in general

## Description



# Course description

This course will introduce the principles of plant

- structure,
- function,
- diversity

**as evolved over time.** You will gain a better understanding of plant life, diversity and distribution on this planet and learn to appreciate plants as elaborate and **beautiful** organisms, which are a significant part of our culture. You will learn about historical experiments and persons, who had a significant impact on the field and get introduced to current findings. In the labs you will observe plant structure and gain experience on how to collect and analyze experimental data.

Please note that this course is not a best choice for non-science majors, I recommend Biol 111 instead.



# Instructor

- Dr. Alexey Shipunov
- Office: Moore 229
- Office Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 11 am to 12 am
- Phone: 858-3116
- E-mail: [alexey.shipunov@minotstateu.edu](mailto:alexey.shipunov@minotstateu.edu)



**Lectures** Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:00 am to 10:50 am, Moore 16

**Laboratories** Mondays and Wednesdays, Moore 210

Laboratories will start from September 8!



# Web site

Shipunov, A. Introduction to Botany [Electronic resource]. 2010—onwards.  
Mode of access: [http://herba.msu.ru/shipunov/school/biol\\_154/index.htm](http://herba.msu.ru/shipunov/school/biol_154/index.htm)

## BIOL 154: Introduction to Botany



Class materials:

- [Syllabus](#) (PDF, 0.2 Mb)
- [Lecture 1](#) (PDF, 0.3-Mb)

Folders:

- [Old lectures \(2010\)](#)
- [Old lectures \(2011\)](#)
- [Old lectures \(2012\)](#)
- [Old lectures \(2013\)](#)

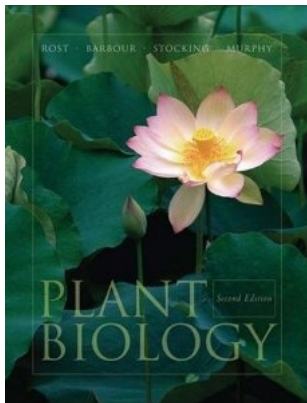
[http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol\\_154](http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol_154)

Please check it regularly. There will be much more material due course. As a rule, slides of every lecture will be available after this lecture.





# Textbook



“Rost” Plant Biology (Rost et al., 2 ed., Thomson Brooks/Cole)



# Course in general

## Grading



# Exams

- **Four** exams are given during the semester.
- Only **three** best exams contribute to the final grade.
- Missed exams count zero points. There are **no make-up** exams.



# Preparation to exams

- Download go through all lecture slides / study guide
- Clarify remaining questions with textbook
- Use external sources (like Wikipedia) to explore the rest
- Try not only memorize this stuff, but also understand how described things work



# Exam grades

- I will grade the curve by “trimmed maximum”
- For example, if the maximum results are (in descending order): 67, 63, 61, 61, 61, 60, 60, 60, 60, ... — I will take out “outliers” and set the trimmed maximum (or 100%, or “A”) as **61**.
- Then “B” will start from 54, “C” will start from 48 and so on.



# Labs

- This is a **laboratory course**, meaning that receiving zero points for more than one laboratory results in a failed course.
- Grading of laboratories is based on reports and/or drawings.
- Written reports and/or drawings are prepared and finished during laboratory sessions and passed to the instructor right after the particular laboratory session.
- Some labs will be outdoor



# Absence

There are five legitimate reasons for absence from exams or labs:

- 1 emergency situations,
- 2 attested medical conditions
- 3 military duty,
- 4 participation in MSU sports events,
- 5 dependent sick leave.

Absence from exams or laboratories needs to be announced to the instructor in advance.



# Lectures and final questions (quizzes)

- I strongly recommend attending lectures regularly. Lecture contents will supersede the textbook.
- Make notes based on my explanations and board drawings, do not copy slides!
- At the end of every lecture I will give one short test question to answer. Each question will give from 1 to 3 points.





# Points

A total of 540 points can be earned and are distributed as follows:

**Lecture tests** : 60 points (1–3 points per question)

**Three best exams** : 240 points

**Laboratories** : 240 points (20 points per lab)

Grading points may vary between exams, tests, and labs.



# Letter grades

- $A \geq 90\%$
- $B \geq 80\%$
- $C \geq 70\%$
- $D \geq 60\%$
- $F < 60\%$

A minimum of one letter grade will be deducted from the grade for academic dishonesty / plagiarism.



# Course in general

## Course schedule



# Our seven steps towards understanding the plant

- Photosynthesis
- Symbiogenesis
- Life cycle
- Tissues
- Living skyscrapers: plant organs
- Trees and seeds
- Flowering plants (gymnosperms version 2.0)



# Plants: importance and definition

## Importance



Plant is not an animal!



# Importance of plants

Why are plants important?



# Final question (1 point)





# Final question (1 point)

Why are plants important?



# Summary

- BIOL 154: download the syllabus from the Web site ([http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol\\_154/](http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol_154/))
- No make-up exams
- Plant is not an animal!
- Plants are extremely important, highly diverse and deserve a scientific study



# For Further Reading



A. Shipunov.

*Introduction to Botany* [Electronic resource].

2010—onwards.

Mode of access:

[http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol\\_154](http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol_154)



Th. L. Rost, M. G. Barbour, C. R. Stocking, T. M. Murphy.

*Plant Biology*. 2nd edition.

Thomson Brooks/Cole, 2006.

*Chapter 1*.

