PLP6223C Viral Pathogens of Plants

Instructor: Jane E. Polston, Ph.D.
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Course Time/Location:
10 weeks, May 14 – July 25, 2018
Lectures: 2564 Fifield Hall, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, period 4 (12:30 pm – 1:45 pm),
Labs: 2306 Fifield Hall, Monday and Wednesday, periods 5 and 6 (2:00 pm – 4:45 pm)

Prerequisites: Graduate or upper undergraduate course in Plant Pathology; and Graduate or upper undergraduate course in Biochemistry or Molecular Biology.

Class Website: http://plantpath.ifas.ufl.edu/classes/PLP4222-PLP6223/index.html
This website presents all the lectures, papers, protocols, instructions needed for each lecture, laboratory and discussion session by week and day.

Office Hours: Office hours by appointment

Course Description:
The course is designed as a survey of contemporary concepts and principles of viruses that infect plants: their taxonomy and nomenclature, their structure and genetics, how they interact with their plant hosts, vectors, and other viruses, and their epidemiology, ecology and management. While the taxonomic relationship of plant viruses to other viruses is discussed the focus of the course is on plant viruses. Discussion sessions, which are formal discussions of pre-assigned papers, will take place during laboratory periods. Discussion periods are designed to supplement information presented in lecture, as well as to help students develop the confidence to read and correctly interpret papers in plant virology so that they can acquire new knowledge as needed in their careers. Class Exercises are designed to give students an opportunity to learn through creating and give students an opportunity to use the information they are learning. Wet laboratories are designed to give students hands-on experience to enhance comprehension of course content.

Course Objectives:
Plant viruses are one of the largest groups of plant pathogens, second only to fungi in their diversity and species number. Due to their inability to be cultured or easily visualized, they