

**PLP 2000 Syllabus: Plants, Plagues, and People  
Summer B, 2014**

**COURSE:** PLP 2000, Section 4972, 3 credits. This course may be used for credits in either the Biological Sciences (B) or the Humanities (H) portions of the General Education Requirement.

**MEETING TIMES:** 11:00-12:15 (Period 3), Monday-Friday

**MEETING PLACE:** Norman Hall, NRN 137

**TEXTS:** Student guide for Plants, Plagues, and People (B. Spakes Richter)  
Available at Target Copy, 1412 W. University Ave, or 3422 SW Archer Rd

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Brantlee Spakes Richter

**OFFICE:** 2519 Fifield Hall

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday-Friday, 2:00-3:00, and by appointment.

**PHONE:** 352-273-2014

**EMAIL:** Please use the email within the Sakai course site for all class-related correspondence.

**e-LEARNING WEBSITE:** <https://lss.at.ufl.edu>

**GRADES:** There will be 4 exams, a daily quiz, and one extra credit assignment. The daily quiz scores for the entire session add up to one exam, and students have the option of using the quiz grade to replace one of the exam grades for exams 1, 2, or 3 (but not exam #4). Thus, for the four grades earned on exams 1 through 3 and the cumulative quiz score, the top three grades will be used. Exam #4 is mandatory, and will not be replaced.

Exam 1:	100 points
Exam 2:	100 points
Exam 3:	100 points
Exam 4:	100 points
<u>Quiz Scores (25 at 4 points each):</u>	<u>100 points</u>
Total points	
(after dropping one exam OR the quiz grade):	400 points

**Exams** are non-cumulative. Some major course themes will be repeated in more than one section, and will therefore appear on more than one exam, but each exam covers only the material that was discussed in class since the previous exam.

**Quizzes** will be handed out at the beginning of the class period and collected at the end of the period. The answers to daily quizzes will be given during that day's lecture; to do well on the quizzes, one need only attend the entire lecture and pay attention. Class monitors will make the quizzes available until 5 minutes after the start of class, after which you will not be able to pick up a quiz. Quizzes must be returned *in person* at the end of the class. No credit will be given for quizzes handed in by someone else, or handed in before the end of class, unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor. Attempts to cheat the quiz system (for example, by handing in a quiz form picked up by another student or picked up at an earlier date) will result in the loss of your entire quiz grade for the semester.

**Extra Credit:** There will be one optional extra credit assignment offered, the “Museum Quiz.” This assignment will be worth up to 20 points, to be added to the total points earned in the course. The quiz will be administered at the Florida Museum of Natural History (on Hull Road, across from the Southwest Rec Center, see: <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/>). To take the quiz, check in at the front desk of the museum, and tell the staff that you are in the Plants, Plagues, and People class. They will ask you to sign in, and will give you a quiz. When you are finished, turn in your quiz and sign out at the front desk. You may visit the museum and take the quiz at any time during museum hours (Mon-Sat 10am – 5pm, Sun 1pm – 5pm), but the deadline to receive credit is **July 28<sup>th</sup>**. Museum quizzes turned in after July 28<sup>th</sup> will not be graded, and no credit will be received.

**Grade calculation:** final course grades will be determined on the following scale, based upon 400 possible points earned.

Letter Grade	Percentage	Points
A	91.00 - 100	364-400
A-	89.50 - 90.99	358-363
B+	87.00 - 89.49	348-357
B	81.00 - 86.99	324-347
B-	79.50 - 80.99	318-323
C+	77.00 - 79.49	308-317
C	71.00 - 76.99	284-307
C-	69.50 - 70.99	278-283
D+	67.00 - 69.49	268-277
D	61.00 - 66.99	244-267
D-	59.50 - 60.99	238-243
E	00.00 - 59.49	000-237

Satisfactory-Unsatisfactory Grade Option: if the class is being taken as a “pass/fail” (S-U) credit, a satisfactory grade will be earned with the equivalent of a “C-” grade or better (280-400 points).

### Grades Points

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

### ATTENDANCE, PARTICIPATION, AND CONDUCT:

**Class attendance** is highly recommended. Only that material which is covered or assigned in class will appear on exams. Some of the exam material will be from sources other than the optional course text book, and lectures will also cover updates to material in the text. Participation in class can also provide an optional replacement exam grade (see GRADES).

**If you must miss a class** due to illness or other extenuating circumstances, notify the instructor as soon as possible. If you have an excused absence due to illness, you will be given opportunity to make up the participation points for the day (you may be asked to provide documentation from a physician). Student athletes will be excused for official events through the University Athletic Association. If you know that you will be missing a class for observation of a religious holiday or participation in an academic or professional event, you must contact the instructor *in advance* of the expected absence to

arrange for make-up work. **Absences due to personal planning** (leaving town, attending club functions, picking someone up at the airport, etc.) **will not be excused**, and missed participation points may not be made up. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

**Make-up Exams:** Missed exams with an excused absence must be made up prior to the next exam date. Make-up exams will not be the same exam given during the regular examination period.

**Make-up Quizzes:** Missed quizzes with an excused absence must be made up *prior to class* on the dates listed in the course schedule for each quiz set. Quiz answers will be posted after class on the last day before each exam, as a study aid. After the quiz answers are posted, no further make-up quizzes will be accepted.

**Don't be rude.** You are not required to come to class, nor to pay attention while in class. However, disruptions which impede others from paying attention and participating fully in the class will not be tolerated. Disruptive students will be given one warning by email, and will forfeit their quiz grade for the day. Further disruptions by the same student will result in the loss of all daily quiz credits and any extra credit from the museum quiz.

**Food** is not permitted in classrooms, per University of Florida policies. Smoking and tobacco use are prohibited in all facilities and areas of the University of Florida campus with no exception.

### **Academic Honesty**

As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: *"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity."* You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: *"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."*

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/SCCR/honorcodes/honorcode.php>.

### **Software Use:**

All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

## CAMPUS HELPING RESOURCES

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

- *University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, [www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/)*
  - Counseling Services
  - Groups and Workshops
  - Outreach and Consultation
  - Self-Help Library
  - Training Programs
  - Community Provider Database
- *Career Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, [www.crc.ufl.edu/](http://www.crc.ufl.edu/)*

### **Services for Students with Disabilities** (0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) )

The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

## Class Schedule

PLP2000: Plants, Plagues, and People  
Summer B, 2014

Date	#	Topic
Jun 30	1	Orientation, Geologic time and the Human Speck
July 01	2	Building blocks of life and other trinkets
	02	3 Cell mechanics and mutations
	03	4 Prokaryotes: hot, fast, cheap and easy
	04	- Holiday – No Class
July 07	5	Eukaryotes: cells get organized
	08	6 Energy production and transfer <b>(Last day for make-up quizzes, 1-5)*</b>
	09	- <b>Exam #1</b>
	10	7 Sea of Life: Cells get together and make critters
	11	8 Land Invasion, I: Plants, Fungi, and Stramenopiles
July 14	9	Land Invasion, II: Animals
	15	10 Land Invasion, III: The Cheaters
	16	11 Mammals: from belly buttons to nipples
	17	12 Primates to People (Lucy's got a big ol' butt)
	18	13 Mechanisms of speciation and extinction <b>(Last day for make-ups, 6-12)</b>
July 21	-	<b>Exam #2</b>
	22	14 Hunting and Gathering to the Advent of Agriculture
	23	15 The Rise (and fall and rise and fall ...) of Civilization
	24	16 Meanwhile, on other parts of the planet...
	25	17 Greeks, Romans, and Science
July 28	18	Civilization and Disease <b>(Last day for the Museum Quiz!)</b>
	29	19 Shifting Climates, Shifting People <b>(Last day for make-ups, 13-18)</b>
	30	- <b>Exam #3</b>
	31	20 The Columbian Exchange
Aug 01	21	Renaissance
Aug 04	22	Industrial Revolution, part I
	05	23 Industrial Revolution, part II
	06	24 The Modern Era
	07	25 Population <b>(Last day for make-ups, 19-25)</b>
	08	- <b>Exam #4</b>

\* Quizzes may be made up for **excused** absences only (see syllabus).