

PLP2000: Plants, Plagues, and People
 Modules and Schedule for Spring, 2017

Due Date*	#	Topic
Jan 06	1	Orientation
	2	Geologic time and the Human Speck
	3	Organic molecules: life's building blocks
Jan 13	4	Origins of life
	5	Reading DNA, Writing Proteins
	6	Mistakes in the code (Good news? Bad news? Who knows?)
	7	Mutations and Populations
	D1	Discussion #1 entries due on 15 Jan, 11:59 PM
Jan 20		Jan. 18: MLK Holiday
	8	Prokaryotes: hot, fast, cheap and easy
	9	Eukaryotes: cells get organized & the invention of sex
	10	The Mechanics of Sex (no, not THAT kind of mechanics...)
Jan 27	11	Energy production and transfer: making and breaking bonds
	12	Energy storage and use: food chains to fossil fuels
	13	Sea of Life: Cells get together and make critters
	14	Sea of Life: Diversity of Life
	D2	Discussion #2 entries due on 29 Jan, 11:59 PM
Feb 03	ST1	Summary Test #1 due by 8:00 p.m.
Feb 03	15	Land Invasion, I: Plants
	16	Land Invasion, II: Fungi and Stramenopiles
Feb 10	17	Land Invasion, III: Animals, the Arthropods
	18	Land Invasion, IV: Animals, the Vertebrates
	19	Land Invasion, V: The Cheaters, part 1 (protozoans and flatworms)
	20	Land Invasion, V: The Cheaters, part 2 (roundworms of plants & people)
	D3	Discussion #3 entries due on 12 Feb, 11:59 PM
Feb 17	21	I'm an Amniote, and I'm ok
	22	Mammals: from belly buttons to nipples
	23	The Precarious Rise of the Mammals
	24	Primate Primer
	25	From Primates to People (Lucy's got a big ol' butt)
Feb 24	26	Mechanisms of speciation and extinction
	27	Case Studies in Extinctions
Feb 24	ST2	Summary Test #2 due by 8:00 p.m.
	D4	Discussion #4 entries due on 26 Feb, 11:59 PM
Mar 03	28	Hunting and Gathering to the Advent of Agriculture
	29	Early Agriculture and Domestications
	30	Human Populations: Carrying Capacities and Malthusian Limits

	31	The Rise (and fall and rise and fall ...) of Civilization: Sumerian
	32	The Rise (and fall and rise and fall ...) of Civilization: Harrapan
	33	The Rise (and fall and rise and fall ...) of Civilization: Egyptian
-	-	Mar 04 – 11 Spring Break
Mar	17	34 Meanwhile, on other parts of the planet... Asia
		35 Peopling and Civilizations of the Americas
		36 Back in the Fertile Crescent: from States to Empires
		37 Greeks and Science
		D5 Discussion #5 entries due on 18 Mar, 11:59 PM
Mar	24	38 Roman Rise, and Roman Science
		39 The Decline and Fall of Rome: Logistics & Disease
		40 Civilization and Human Diseases
		41 Density-dependent Diseases: 8 diseases that love a crowd
		42 Civilization and Plant Diseases: Infecting your food
Mar	31	43 The Middle Ages: Shifting Climates, Shifting People
		44 Black Death
Mar	31	ST3 Summary Test #3 due by 8:00 p.m.
		D6 Discussion #6 entries due on 01 Apr, 11:59 PM
Apr	07	45 The Columbian Exchange I: Race for Resources
		46 The Columbian Exchange II: The Unintended Exchanges
		47 Fuel for a Renaissance: Imperialism & Slavery
		48 Renaissance Culture & Science
Apr	14	49 Industrial Revolution I: Power and Invention
		50 Industrial Revolution II: Biology and Medicine
		51 Industrial Revolution II: Culture and Consequences
		52 Global Economics and Resource Conflicts in the Modern Era
		53 Green Revolution
		D7 Discussion #7 entries due on 15 Apr, 11:59 PM
Apr	19	54 Populations, Demands, and Resource Limitations
		55 Energy Junkies
		56 Tying it All Together
Apr	20-21	- Reading Days (No Classes, Nothing Due)
Apr.	24	ST4 Summary Test #4 due by 8:00 p.m.

*This schedule is given to help you stay on track with completing the modules. You are welcome to move through the course at a faster pace, but you must take the module quizzes for each week by 8:00 pm on the posted deadline (Friday of every week, except for the final set), complete the summary tests before 8:00 pm on the scheduled test dates, and complete your discussion entries by 11:59 p.m. on the posted deadlines (every other week). Quizzes and tests will remain open for one week beyond the posted deadline, but **late submissions will only receive half credit**. Beyond the one week late period, no further submissions will be accepted. Late discussion entries will not be accepted.

PLP 2000 Syllabus: Plants, Plagues, and People (Online)
Spring, 2017

COURSE: PLP 2000, Section 12CF, 3 credits. This course may be used to fulfill either a Biological Sciences (B) or Humanities (H) General Education Requirement.

e-LEARNING WEBSITE: <https://lss.at.ufl.edu> (in Canvas)

MEETING TIMES: This course is semi-synchronous. Deadlines are set for completion of module sets, discussions, and summary tests, but they may be completed in advance of the recommended schedule.

TEXTS: There is no required text for the online version of this course. All content is included within the course modules.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Brantlee Spakes Richter

OFFICE: 2519 Fifield Hall

OFFICE HOURS: Drop-in office hours Thursdays 3:00-4:30, or by appointment.

ONLINE HOURS: Live-chat arranged by appointment.

PHONE: 352-273-2014

EMAIL: Please use the email system within Canvas.

TEACHING ASSISTANTS: James Orrock, Xinjie Yu

CONTACTING THE INSTRUCTOR:

Questions about class materials or content: Please use the discussion boards in Canvas (regular Canvas discussions or Piazza) for all questions about class mechanics or content. If you have a question about the class or subject material, others probably share the same question, and posting it to the discussion boards allows everyone to see the question and answer, just as if you had raised your hand in class and asked the question. This year, we are also using Piazza as a discussion tool in order to allow anonymous posts. If you have a question about class material, but you don't want your peers to see your name on the post, you can post it to the Piazza boards anonymously. You can find the Piazza link directly below the Discussions link in the course tool box. If you use email to ask a general class related question, you will be asked to post your question on the appropriate board, and it will be answered there.

Individual questions, problems, or appointments: Please use the email function in Canvas to communicate with the instructor and TAs during the semester, rather than regular university email, except in extreme emergencies. Email and phone messages delivered on weekdays (M-F) will generally receive a reply within 24 business hours. Messages may not be checked between 5:00 pm Friday and 8:00 am Monday; messages received over the weekend will generally receive a response on Monday. If I plan to be out of the office or otherwise unavailable, I will post an announcement on the class website.

Technical support: If you experience difficulties with accessing components of the site, including lectures, quizzes or tests, **contact the UF help desk** immediately. If they are not able to resolve your problem, contact the instructor with your help desk ticket number and a description of the problem and steps taken to resolve it. Extensions for due dates will be granted for documented technical problems, as needed.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: **Plants, Plagues, and People** is a course in biohistory. We cover biology, from the nuts and bolts to the diversity of life, and we look at the ways in which organisms interact with one another, and how those interactions influence and constrain human activities. Course themes include environmental pressures, resource limitations, and diseases, and the roles that these factors play in the rise and fall of human civilizations.

ABOUT THE ONLINE COURSE: This is an asynchronous distance education (DE) adaptation of the “Plants, Plagues and People” course; it is offered via the University of Florida E-learning system (Canvas) at <http://elearning.ufl.edu/>. The class materials are delivered via a combination of video lectures, narrated interactive slides, and online interactive activities. The lectures and supplementary materials are organized into modules that are available online through the University of Florida E-learning system for the class. In accordance with the copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) none of the materials in the class can be "used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship, or research."

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: The overall goal of this course is for students to gain knowledge of the major events in human evolution and history, as well as a basic understanding of the relationships between humans and their food, biological resources, and pathogens. By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- describe the progression of life forms on planet Earth, and explain how environmental pressures affect populations of living organisms;
- explain the value of plants to human beings, and describe the impacts that the development of agriculture and the use of fossil fuels have had on human populations and societies;
- discuss the effects of biological resource limitations on major historical events and cultural trends;
- distinguish between density-independent and crowd diseases, and describe how various diseases have affected humans and their civilizations;
- give examples of human activities that have led to increases in human, animal, and plant diseases.

PREREQUISITES: There are no course prerequisites for PLP2000. For the online version of this class, however, it will be assumed that you have consistent access to the internet and basic computer skills. You must be able to:

- access the course content regularly,
- navigate the course materials using the Canvas software interface,
- correspond via the email and chat functions within the class website,
- access other online content, as assigned.

For UF’s student computing requirements, see: <https://training.helpdesk.ufl.edu/computing.shtml>.

For help with Canvas, go to: <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>, or use the “help” link in the left-hand menu of your workspace window.

LEARNING MODULES: The course content for this class is divided into 56 learning modules, which are located in the **Home page** of the Canvas interface. Each module includes a presentation of the subject material (video lecture or narrated slides) and supplemental materials, such as non-graded interactive quizzes or exercises, additional readings, short videos, podcasts, etc. Every module also has an associated graded quiz, which you can access directly from the module or by going through the “Quizzes” link in the course toolbox. After you complete the module, you must find and take the associated quiz before the weekly quiz deadline. You do not, however, have to take the quiz immediately after viewing the module. You may find it more beneficial to take time to look back over your notes and study the material further before taking the quiz.

GRADES: There will be a quiz for each module, 4 short review tests, and 7 discussion board assignments. The grading scale is built on a point-based system, with “extra credit” points built in: 500 points is considered a 100% equivalent, but there are more than 520 actual points available. This allows you to make up for missed quiz points by doing additional discussion activities, or to skip two discussions if you are doing well on the module quizzes.

Quiz Scores (56 quizzes at 2-14 points each):	300 points
Review test 1:	38 points
Review test 2:	38 points
Review test 3:	38 points
Review test 4:	38 points
Discussions (7 at 10 points each):	70 points
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Total points	522 points

Quizzes will be taken after each corresponding module, and will typically consist of 2 or 3 questions at 2 points each. Questions will be drawn randomly from a question pool, so you will not receive exactly the same quiz questions as someone else taking the online course. Make sure that you have viewed the module and taken notes, and that you are prepared for the quiz; once you start a quiz, you will have limited time to complete it (total time is set for 90 seconds per question), and you may not exit and return later. Quiz deadlines are set according to the weekly module schedule. All module quizzes will be available starting on the first day of class, but must be completed prior to the weekly scheduled deadlines (8:00 PM, each Friday).

Review tests: **Review tests must be taken on or before the scheduled test date.** Each test will be due at 8:00 pm on the scheduled test deadline date. Tests will consist of 18 questions at 2 points each. Questions are drawn mostly from the same banks as the module quizzes, with a few additional questions that combine information from several related modules. It is recommended that you review your quiz results prior to taking the review test, and ask questions as needed to get clarity on any questions that you missed. Once you begin a test, you will have 30 minutes to complete it. You may not leave the test and return later. The test will end when you hit the “submit” button, or will close automatically exactly 30 minutes after you begin. The grade will be calculated automatically, and you will be able to see your score in your Canvas grade book within a few minutes of completion.

Discussions: There are seven (7) discussion opportunities available, and each student is expected to participate in at least **five (5)** of those discussions. Additional points may be earned by participating in additional discussions. To participate, follow the link from the module or find the topic under “Discussions.” Each discussion activity will require you to complete a different task and post the results on your discussion board, so that others may view and comment on your contribution. Please read ahead and don’t wait until the last minute to start a discussion post; each one will require a little outside exploration prior to submission, and there is no late credit for discussions. In order to receive full credit, your posts must be well-reasoned, coherent, and supported by appropriate sources. Please remember that this is a class discussion, not a text message. Use complete sentences, check your grammar and spelling, and show respect for your fellow students, just as you would if they were sitting next to you in a classroom.

Grade calculation: Final course grades will be determined on the following scale, based upon 500 possible points earned. You will be able to keep track of your points throughout the semester in your Canvas grade book. If you find that you are not on track to achieve your desired grade, please make an appointment or drop in during office hours for additional help. Do not wait until the last set of modules

to ask for help! And definitely don't wait until the semester is over, and then ask for your final grade to be "adjusted." I am more than happy to help you individually with the course material, but you must earn your own points.

Letter Grade	Percentage	Points
A	92-100	460-500+
A-	90-91.99	450-459
B+	88-89.99	440-449
B	82-87.99	410-439
B-	80-81.99	400-409
C+	78-79.99	390-399
C	72-77.99	360-389
C-	70-71.99	350-359
D+	68-69.99	340-349
D	62-67.99	310-339
D-	60-61.99	300-309
E	0-57.99	000-299

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 (350-500 points).

Extra Credit: There are more than 20 extra credit points built in to the course. These extra points allow you the flexibility to "make up" missed quiz or test points by doing additional discussion activities, or vice-versa. There will, however, be no "individual" extra credit opportunities offered; the only extra credit that will be given will be from assignments available to the entire class.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION IN THE ONLINE ENVIRONMENT:

This class is fully online and semi-synchronous. That means that students are responsible for scheduling their own time to complete the modules, allowing enough time to ask questions and receive answers before the deadlines for graded quizzes and tests. **Failing to log in to an online class and complete the weekly assignments is equivalent to skipping a live class.** Just as "I forgot to attend class all week" would not constitute an excused absence for a live class, it is equally inexcusable in the online environment. Waiting until the last day is also not recommended; if you wait until the day of a quiz or test deadline and attempt to view all the modules and take all the quizzes in rapid succession, your likelihood of earning a passing grade is poor; most humans are not able to absorb, process, and retain information very well in such a situation, and it leaves no time to get clarification on anything that you did not immediately understand. While we will strive to keep the online format as interactive as possible, there will not be an instructor immediately accessible 24 hours a day, so there will be a delay between the time that you post a question and the time that we can answer it.

Missed Deadlines: If you have plans to be out of town, or have other conflicts with a scheduled due date, you will be expected to complete the assignments **prior to** the scheduled date. Make-up tests will not be given after the due date for reasons of personal scheduling conflicts. If you have waited until the scheduled test deadline, and you have an emergency that will prevent you from taking the test, you must contact the instructor as soon as possible. You may be asked to provide documentation of the emergency or illness (police report of a car wreck, doctor's note for illness or injury). A missed test or quiz must be made up prior to the next test or quiz deadline. If you miss a posted deadline without an excused absence, the test or quiz will still be available for one week (until the next scheduled deadline); however, you will only receive half credit for late submissions. Please note that your full credit score will initially appear in the grade book, but all late scores will be halved before final grade calculation.

Academic Integrity standards will be upheld vigilantly at all times in this class. Upon registering at the University of Florida, you signed the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University." On all work submitted for credit by students 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." You will be expected to keep these commitments in every aspect of your participation in this class.

There is currently no effective means of proctoring online exams for a large-format class, so it has been assumed in the development of this course that students will have access to their notes while taking the online tests and quizzes. You are encouraged to take good notes, and use them effectively, but you are expected to use only your own notes and understanding during assessments, and you are expected to submit your own work on discussion boards. Plagiarized posts will receive no credit. Quizzes and tests are timed, so you will not have time to go find answers in the lectures or discussion boards and still complete the assessment within the allotted time frame, and no two students will receive exactly the same test questions. You may use your own notes, but there is no substitute for good preparation and understanding of the material.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND SERVICES

UF Distance Education Student Complaints: Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course, which you are unable to resolve directly with the instructor, please visit <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints> to submit a complaint.

UF Counseling Services provides resources on campus for students having difficulties which may interfere with their academic performance. Programs are available for general therapy, stress management, anger management, math confidence, career counseling, LGBT support, and many other specific needs. Resources available to you include: **1) University Counseling Center**, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575; **2) Student Mental Health Center**, 392-1171; **3) Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)**, Student Health Care Center, 392-1161; **4) Career Resource Center**, Reitz Union, 392-1601.

Accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Students requesting accommodations must first register with the Dean of Students Office (through Students with Disabilities Office, Peabody 202, 392-1261). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student. This documentation must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. For further information, see the Disability Resource Center (www.dso.ufl.edu/OSD/).

Software Use and Copyright: 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.