PLP6223C VIRAL PATHOGENS OF PLANTS

SPRING 2023

3 credit hours

Instructor:

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Class Location: 2306 Fifield Hall and online via Zoom
Only lectures and discussions can be attended via Zoom. Labs should be attended in-person.

Class Times: 7-week module: Feb 13 to April 7, 2023
Lectures: M, T, R (9:35 – 10:25 am)
Labs/Discussions/Quizzes/Lectures: W, F (9:35 - 11:30 am)

Join Zoom Meeting
(a link will be provided)

Course Materials Access:

Course website in Canvas at https://elearning.ufl.edu

Office Hours:

By appointment, via Zoom or over the phone
Course Overview:

The course discusses most important principles and concepts related to viruses, with the main focus on viruses that infect plants. Those include virus classification, architecture, genome organization, replication, movement, cytopathology of virus infections, virus-host interactions, transmission, epidemiology, and evolution. The course also discusses principals of virus diagnosis and control measures. The course includes lectures, discussions, and laboratory sessions. Discussions will focus on research articles and virus case studies, which aim to advance the students’ knowledge in plant virology. Wet laboratories are designed to give students hands-on experience and improve their understanding of the fundamental concepts being discussed in the course.

Each student will be expected to prepare and deliver one presentation. For the “Virus Case Study” presentation, each student will select a virus from a list provided by the instructor. Each student will prepare a comprehensive 12-15-minute PowerPoint presentation on the biology of the selected virus and its economic importance and deliver the presentation for the class (oral presentation) at a scheduled date. For this assignment, students will be expected to conduct the literature search (research papers). Upon delivery of their presentations, students are expected to be prepared to answer questions related to the presentation content as well as general questions related to the material learned in this course.

Course Objectives: through this course, students will:

1. Become familiar with most important principles and concepts related to viruses that infect plants;
2. Become familiar with the fundamental characteristics and biology of most economically important plant viruses;
3. Learn the experimental procedures and methods that are used in the plant virology research and plant virus diagnostics;
4. Improve professional skills, including skills in developing a scientific idea as well as in critical reading of scientific literature and presentation skills.

Prerequisites: Introductory courses in Plant Pathology, Genetics, and Biochemistry/Molecular Biology

Course Schedule of Topics and Assignments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class type</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 M</td>
<td>02/13/23</td>
<td>Lecture 1</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 T</td>
<td>02/14/23</td>
<td>Lecture 2</td>
<td>Introduction to Viruses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Details</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 W</td>
<td>02/15/23</td>
<td>No class meeting: work remotely on your reading assignment</td>
<td>Are viruses alive?</td>
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<td>Required reading: Moreira and Lopez-Garcia (2009); Forterre (2016)</td>
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<td>Video with Dr. Vincent Racaniello</td>
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<td><a href="https://youtu.be/QD7YLLyh_HE">https://youtu.be/QD7YLLyh_HE</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 R</td>
<td>02/16/23</td>
<td>Lecture 3</td>
<td>Virus Classification</td>
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<td>1 F</td>
<td>02/17/23</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>Are Viruses Alive? Discussion of the selected articles</td>
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<td>Moreira and Lopez-Garcia (2009); Forterre (2016)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 M</td>
<td>02/20/23</td>
<td>Lecture 4</td>
<td>Architecture of Viruses</td>
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<td>2 T</td>
<td>02/21/23</td>
<td>Lecture 5</td>
<td>Virus Infection Cycle</td>
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<td>2 W</td>
<td>02/22/23</td>
<td>Lecture 6</td>
<td>Outcomes of Plant Viral Infections</td>
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<td>2 R</td>
<td>02/23/23</td>
<td>Lecture 7</td>
<td>Genome Organization and Expression I</td>
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<td>2 F</td>
<td>02/24/23</td>
<td>Quiz 1 and Lecture 8</td>
<td>Genome Organization and Expression II</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 M</td>
<td>02/27/23</td>
<td>Lecture 9</td>
<td>Viral Cycle of (+) RNA Viruses</td>
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<td>3 T</td>
<td>02/28/23</td>
<td>Lecture 10</td>
<td>(+) RNA viruses of plants; Expression of viral genomes I</td>
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<td>3 W</td>
<td>03/01/23</td>
<td>Lab exercises</td>
<td>Electron microscopy of viruses; sample preparation</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 R</td>
<td>03/02/23</td>
<td>Lecture 11</td>
<td>(+) RNA viruses of plants; Expression of viral genomes II</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 F</td>
<td>03/03/23</td>
<td>Quiz 2 and Lecture 12</td>
<td>Viral Cycle of (-) RNA and dsRNA Viruses of plants</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 M</td>
<td>03/06/23</td>
<td>Lecture 13</td>
<td>Viral Cycle of plant DNA Viruses</td>
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<td>4 T</td>
<td>03/07/23</td>
<td>Exam I (no class meeting)</td>
<td>Take-home exam: your answers are due 03/04/22 at 11:59 pm</td>
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<td>4 W</td>
<td>03/08/23</td>
<td>Lab Exercises</td>
<td>Electron Microscopy of Virus Samples; Visualization</td>
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<td>4 R</td>
<td>03/09/23</td>
<td>Lecture 14</td>
<td>Virus Movement within plant hosts: cell-to-cell movement</td>
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<td>4 F</td>
<td>03/10/23</td>
<td>Lecture 15</td>
<td>Virus Movement within plant hosts: long-distance movement</td>
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<td>03/13-17/23</td>
<td>NO CLASSES</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 M</td>
<td>03/20/23</td>
<td>Lecture 16</td>
<td>Virus Interactions with Plant Immunity</td>
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<td>5 T</td>
<td>03/21/23</td>
<td>Lecture 17</td>
<td>RNA Silencing I</td>
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<td>5 W</td>
<td>03/22/23</td>
<td>Lab exercises</td>
<td>Virus inoculation: mechanical inoculation; Agrobacterium-mediated infiltration</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 R</td>
<td>03/23/23</td>
<td>Lecture 18</td>
<td>RNA Silencing II</td>
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<td>5 F</td>
<td>03/24/23</td>
<td>Quiz 3 and Lecture 19</td>
<td>Transmission of Plant Viruses</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 M</td>
<td>03/27/23</td>
<td>Lecture 20</td>
<td>Viroids</td>
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</table>
References for the Supplementary Reading Materials (these articles are provided as pdf files on the course website in Canvas):


Forterre P. To be or not to be alive: How recent discoveries challenge the traditional definitions of viruses and life. Studies in History and Philosophy of Science Part C: Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences. 2016 Oct 1;59:100-8.

Additional literature resources:

These articles are provided as pdf files on the course website in Canvas and are suggested reading materials. Students may select and use some of those for their presentation assignment. Alternatively, students may use other appropriate articles of their choice.

Potato viruses


Grapevine viruses


**Tomato viruses**


Sugarcane viruses


**Cotton viruses**


Cucurbit viruses


Required and Recommended Textbooks:

Although there is no required textbook, students are expected to read all the reading materials provided by the instructor, which will include review and research articles. Those will be provided in electronic format. Among those materials will be papers selected specifically for in class discussions that students are expected to study in details in order to actively participate in discussions.

Recommended textbooks:


Grading:

Exams – Exam I (20% of student’s grade); Exam II (25% of grade)

Quizzes – 10%
Presentation on “Virus Case Study” (30% of grade)

Participation in class discussions and labs (15% of grade)

**Grading Scale:**

- 93-100% A
- 90-92% A-
- 86-89% B+
- 83-85% B
- 80-82% B-
- 76-79% C+
- 73-75% C
- 70-72% C-
- 66-69% D+
- 63-65% D
- 60-62% D-
- Below 60% E

Detailed and up-to-date information on UF grades and grading policies can be found at

[https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx)

**Attendance and Make-up Policy:**

Students are expected to attend all course lectures, discussions, and labs as well as complete required assignments on time. Students should arrive to the class on time. No cell phone use is allowed in the class. Along with the fact that these are firm requirements for participating in the course, the ability to fulfill these expectations reflects your professional characteristics. If you unable to attend a class due to illness or an emergency, you must notify the instructor as soon as possible, preferably prior to the scheduled class. If you miss an exam for a valid and documented reason, a make-up exam will be scheduled with permission from the instructor. These requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

[https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx)

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

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. The respective students should first register with the Disability Resource Center at 0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) and provide appropriate documentation.
On-line course evaluation:

According to the UF Policy on Course Syllabi, “students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/.”

Materials and supplies fees:

$35; the fees are used to purchase materials for the laboratory exercises.

Academic Honesty

As a student enrolled at the UF, you committed yourself to the highest standards of honesty and integrity required by the honor code. You are expected to be consistent with this commitment. The following is the UF Honor 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.” As it is stated by the UF student honor code, “all work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied: On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment. The university requires all members of its community to be honest in all endeavors. A fundamental principle is that the whole process of learning and pursuit of knowledge is diminished by cheating, plagiarism and other acts of academic dishonesty. In addition, every dishonest act in the academic environment affects other students adversely, from the skewing of the grading curve to giving unfair advantage for honors or for professional or graduate school admission. Therefore, the university will take severe action against dishonest students. Students should report any condition that facilitates dishonesty to the instructor, department chair, college dean, Student Honor Council or Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution in the Dean of Students Office.” (Source: 2013-2014 Undergraduate Catalog).

It is expected that you will complete all work independently unless the assignment is designed as a group project as explicitly indicated by the instructor.

This policy will be firmly upheld at all times during this course.
For more information regarding academic honesty and student responsibilities, please see:

http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/

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

The university’s counseling resources are available for students experiencing personal problems that interfere with their general well-being and/or academic performance. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for students that are currently enrolled with the university.

• University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, 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, 352-392-1601, www.crc.ufl.edu/

The instructor reserves the right to modify information provided in the syllabus. Any modifications will be communicated to the enrolled students via class announcements in advance.