

# Biology 62: Plants and Human Welfare Syllabus

Spring 2018: Section 201, Reg ID #90772

Evergreen Valley College

Dr. Lisa Hays

Class Time/Location: M/W 9:15AM – 10:35AM in VPA-105

Professor Name/Contact: Dr. Hays, plants@doctorhays.com, 408-274-7900 x6585

Office hours: Mon/Wed 8:00-9:15AM, 10:35 – 11AM, 2:00 – 3:00PM. My office is in Sequoia Rm 103.

## Teaching Philosophy:

My philosophy is to provide you with a comfortable learning environment where you can not only listen, but speak. I want to be an enthusiastic teacher, share my love for science and inspire you to do your best in this course. I am open to hearing your concerns and needs and will respect your ideas.

## About the Course:

This class is intended for non-biology majors who want to learn about plants and their impact on humans. Plants provide the oxygen we need to breathe and the food we need to eat. Students will see how genetics is important to the future of plants and human health. This is a lecture-only course.

## Course Content:

Plant anatomy, flowers and fruits, genetics, nutrition, agriculture, plants for food, plants for material, medicinal plants, poisonous plants, algae, fungi and diseases.

## Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, the successful student will be able to:

1. Identify the anatomical structures of angiosperms, gymnosperms, algae and fungi
2. Describe plant growth and reproduction
3. Analyze the advantages and disadvantages of genetically modified plants
4. Describe the major crops grown around the world and assess their use for human consumption
5. Compare the uses of plants for materials, health and pleasure

## Academic Honesty Policy:

All homework must be your original thoughts and work. Do NOT copy from the textbook, other students or the Internet.

Cheating: If I find a student cheating, I will automatically drop the student from this course. No exceptions.

### Grading:

You determine your grade. I will make the exams fair and challenging. It is up to you to work hard and learn what I am teaching. Your grades will reflect the effort that you put into the class. There will not be extra credit available.

The grading scale will be based as follows:

88.00 - 100% = A  
78.00 – 87.99% = B  
68.00 – 77.99% = C  
58.00 – 67.99% = D  
below 58% = F

### Classroom Etiquette

Diversity: Together, we will make our classroom a “safe” place to be. We all need to be aware of the diversity of the students in our class and the issues that may need to be addressed. Issues that are apparent to me are: gender equity, cultural diversity, learning and physical disabilities, international students, and re-entry students. What this means is that we must all have respect for one another and be aware of how our behavior will affect those around us.

Please speak English during class. Everyone here needs to learn botany and it is helpful to your fellow students to hear all that you say. Sometimes students feel awkward when others are speaking a language that is foreign. To encourage class unity, please use English.

Electronic devices: They must be turned off during class. Please do not text message during class. It is an interruption to your neighbors. In addition, it prevents you from learning the material.

Laptops are not permitted in lecture unless students need it for a proven disability.

Food: Please do not eat in the room. A bottle of water is allowed.

Sleeping: Yes, this is an issue of classroom etiquette. If you fall asleep in the class, I take it personally and find it very rude. If you are dozing off, let me know because I have the cure for you. After attending thousands of hours of lectures, I know how to prevent napping in class. Lollipops. Trust me!

Smoking: Evergreen Valley College is now a NON-SMOKING, NO VAPING campus.

Talking: Please do not talk while I am lecturing. If you have a question, raise your hand and ask me instead of your neighbor.

Tardiness: Please make effort to arrive on time. I waste no time in getting started and you will miss important information if you arrive late. If you do come in late, please don't disrupt the class.

Children: For safety reasons, and in consideration of your colleagues, children are not allowed in class at ANY time.

### Students' Responsibilities

Attendance: Attendance is monitored. It is extremely important that you attend each lecture. During the lecture, you will see which part of the chapter I find most significant. You will find that my interpretation of the information will be different than the way that the textbook delivers the information.

Commitment: Each student who is enrolled in this class should be committed to doing his/her best in the course. With this commitment, you will succeed in the course and find that you will be proud of yourself for putting out your best effort.

This is a 3 unit course. As a general guideline, it is expected that each unit of a college level course will require 3 hours of your study time each week. This means that you will spend 9 hours/week studying for this course. Some students require more and others less. In either case, I want you to be aware that you will need to devote ample time to learning this material.

Disabilities: If you have a learning or physical disability, be sure to contact the Disabilities Support Program to begin the proper paperwork - 270-6447 - then come and discuss your disability with me.

Dropping: I will **not** be dropping students from the class. If you decide to not take this course, please drop yourself. Students who do not attend class but remain enrolled will receive a grade of F.

Exams: There will be 4 exams. Exams are composed of multiple choice questions, matching questions and labeling diagrams. 80 questions. Please arrive on time and do not wear a smart watch for the exam.

You will need the long, green **Scantron #882** (from bookstore) for each exam.

There will be **no make up exams**.

#### The Exam Index Card

For the exam, students may choose to bring one 3X5 index card filled with information from the class. There are rules for the card.

1. It must be handwritten by YOU.
2. You may write on the front AND back.
3. There can be NO photocopies taped to the card.
4. I will review/measure the card if I doubt it is the correct size.
5. Index cards must be turned into instructor at end of exam.

Failure to follow these rules will result in disposal of the index card.

Reading Quizzes: There are also no makeup quizzes. The reading quizzes are given during the first few minutes of class and if you arrive late, you will **not be given the quiz**. The reading quizzes are worth 6 points each and the purpose of the reading quizzes is to prepare you for the lecture. The lowest 3 quizzes will be dropped from your final score. You will need the short, brown Scantron #2020 for each quiz.

Research Paper: During the second week of class you will receive information about the 5-6 page paper due at the end of the semester.

Participation: During each lecture I will ask you to get into groups of 2-3 to discuss the topic of the day. This is your chance to be an active learner. Take advantage of discussions with your colleagues

Often times I will provide worksheets during the lecture. These handouts are due at the end of lecture and are worth 4 points each. You must turn in your own handout to get the credit.

Prerequisite: There are no prerequisites for Biology 62. However, it is highly recommended that students be able to read and write well in English and have basic math skills.

Studying: This course will require many hours of studying time outside of the lecture time. The key is how to use your time wisely. You need to decide what topics have priority because with our busy schedules, study time is often limited. You also need to analyze the type of learner you are: audio, visual, or hands-on.

I can help you learn how to study with more efficiency. Please read the How to Study guide on my webpage [www.doctorhays.com](http://www.doctorhays.com). This guide was written by my favorite university professor.

Read the chapter before coming to lecture and find other students with whom to study.

## Course Materials

### Lecture Notes

The first two lecture notes are available to you on my webpage [www.doctorhays.com](http://www.doctorhays.com). Please print them out and bring them to class with you. Students will be given a username and password to access the notes for the remainder of the semester.

### Textbooks (required):

Levetin, E and K. McMahon, *Plants and Society*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition, 2016

Put your name and phone number in your book and never leave them unattended.

You are responsible for reading the textbook chapters we are covering. The book will elaborate on topics that I will only briefly cover. To help your understanding, I highly

recommend you read the chapter. Reading is an excellent way to reinforce your learning. In class, you hear the words. Outside of class, you can use another of your five senses, sight, and read the text.

I also recommend that you bring your text to class with you. During lecture I show figures from the text. The detail will be clearer if you look directly at your book.

### Canvas

Homework and research papers will be turned in online using Canvas from the EVC website.

Canvas checks students' homework and papers to see what percentage is original and what percentage is copied. It gives a "similarity index". You should aim for a maximum of 10%. A number higher than 11% will be a zero on the homework or research paper.

To log into Canvas, go to [evc.edu](http://evc.edu) and find the link on the right side. If you have trouble logging in, please call the ITSS Help Desk at 408-270-6411. They only answer the phones until 7PM and are not open on the weekend.