PLB 419-3 Plant Molecular Biology  
Fall 2015, Section 001, 3:00-3:50 MWF, LSII 450

I. Instructor: Dr. Andrew Wood, Professor, LS II 431, 453-5609, wood@plant.siu.edu; www.science.siu.edu/plant-biology/wood/index.html; Office Hours: By appointment.

II.Text: Materials will be provided by the Professor

III. Course Objectives:  
1) Gain an understanding of the major concepts in Molecular Biology  
2) Gain an understanding of the scientific techniques used in the study of plant biology  
3) Strengthen the ability to critically read and evaluate scientific material  
4) Hone the student’s scientific writing skills  
5) Apply 1, 2, 3 & 4 to the analysis of key research problems in Plant Molecular Biology

IV. Grading & Assessment: Student’s performance will be evaluated based upon a combination of written exams, a final exam, question sets and Friday discussions. There will be 4, 100-point exams (including the non-cumulative final); one of the exams will be dropped from your grade. There will be 4, 50-point question sets. There will be 15, 10-point discussions/reports each Friday. Extra credit can be earned on each of the exams and question sets. Each Friday we will discuss a paper from the primary literature; your participation will be documented and graded based upon your attendance & submission of a 1-page summary. You must attend Friday lecture to receive credit. To earn an “A” in the course you must attend/participate in twelve (12) Friday discussions. If you attend fewer than 12 Friday discussions your grade will be based upon the points earned and the highest possible grade is a “B”.

COURSE POLICIES: This course will adhere to the published SIU-C policies. Students are expected to take the course exams at the scheduled dates & times unless the student’s absence has been officially excused prior to the date of the exam. Students who miss an exam due to illness or personal emergency may request a make-up exam if proper documentation can be provided.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture exams</td>
<td>300 pts</td>
<td>A 585-650 pts AND Attend 12 Friday Discussions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Question sets</td>
<td>200 pts</td>
<td>B 520-584 pts ( Attend less than 12 FDs)</td>
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<td>Friday Discussion</td>
<td>150 pts</td>
<td>C 455-519 pts</td>
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<td>D 390-454 pts</td>
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<td>&lt; 390 pts</td>
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Test 1: Monday, September 21st  
Test 2: Monday, October 19th  
Test 3: Monday, November 16th

Question sets are due 9/14, 10/14, 11/9 & 12/9

FINAL EXAM: Friday December 18th, 2:45-4:45