

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.

Lecture exams	300 pts (3 x 100 pts each)	A 585-650 pts AND Attend 12 Friday Discussions
Question sets	200 pts (4 x 50 pts each)	B 520-584 pts (Attend less than 12 FDs)
Friday Discussion	150 pts (15 x 10 pts each)	C 455-519 pts
		D 390-454 pts
		< 390 pts

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