

BIOL 5400 Fall 2023
Plant Physiology and Biotechnology (CRN 85537)
Credit hours: 4

Instructor: Dr. Ansul Lokdarshi
 Office: BC 2212
 Email: alokdarshi@valdosta.edu

Office (Student) hours (BC2212) Wednesday 1 PM - 3:00 PM, Thursday 11 AM-1 PM
 Or by appointment (please send an email to my valdosta.edu account with “appointment” in the subject line and I will accommodate as time permits).

Lecture (BS 2202) Monday and Wednesday 3:30 PM – 4:45 PM
Lab (BS 2071) Thursday 2:00 PM – 4:50 PM

Pre-requisites: Admission into the Biology Graduate Program.

For rest of the sections follow the undergraduate syllabus guidelines with only exception that Graduate students enrolled in BIOL 5400 will be required to complete the assigned project given by the instructor (Lab Project). The project will encompass application of most of the lab skills taught in the course. Final Rubrics will be posted on BV. An example with grading scheme is provided in the current syllabus.

Grading: Your grade will depend on how well you do on the exams, quizzes, and lab report. Expect the following grading scale (based on the total number of points actually assigned):

Grade Calculation		Grade distribution	
Category	Possible weight	Letter	Percentage
Lecture Exam 1	20%	A	89-100%
Lecture Exam 2	20%	B	79-88%
Lecture Exam 3	20%	C	69-78%
Quizzes	5%	D	59-68%
Lab Exam 1	15%	F	≤58%
Lab Project	15%		
Participation	5%		
Total	100%		

Experiential Learning Syllabus Statement

This course includes an Experiential Learning opportunity carefully designed to allow students to explore concepts, skills, and principles beyond the traditional classroom, lab, or studio. Students will have opportunities to make connections across campus, collaborate with others, and apply and synthesize what they have studied in the course. In addition to the experience, students reflect on what they have learned during and at the completion of the course/activity to deepen their learning. Reflections help students

transfer skills and concepts to different contexts including ‘real-world’ settings. For more information about Experiential Learning please visit <https://qep.valdosta.edu/experiential-learning/>.

Learning Support

- **Access Office:** Students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The Access Office is located in Farbar Hall. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V), 229-375-5871 (VP) and 229-219-1348 (TTY). For more information, please visit VSU’s Access Office or email: access@valdosta.edu.
- **The Academic Support Center:** The Academic Support Center provides free peer tutoring for most core courses and some upper-division courses. It also offers time management and study skills workshops as well as other learning support services. Call 333-7570 to make an appointment, or visit the website: <https://www.valdosta.edu/asc/>
- **Odum Library** provides a variety of services to assist classroom instruction, including library instruction, course reserves, and interlibrary loan. Please see <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/library/> for further information.
- **Title IX Statement:** Valdosta State University (VSU) upholds all applicable laws and policies regarding discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment and pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, religion, age, veteran status, political affiliation, or disability. The University prohibits specific forms of behavior that violate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities that receive federal funding. VSU considers sex discrimination in any form to be a serious offense. Title IX refers to all forms of sex discrimination committed against others, including but not limited to: sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence by other employees, students or third parties and gender inequity or unfair treatment based on an individual’s sex/gender. The designated Title IX Coordinator for VSU is Ms. Selenseia Holmes. To view the full policy or to report an incident visit: <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/title-ix/>

Cheating or Plagiarism

- Incidents of cheating or plagiarism will result in an automatic “F” grade for the course and referral to the **Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action.**
- For the VSU’s Academic Integrity Code please see <http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-conduct-office/>
- For the VSU’s Academic Honesty policies and procedure please see <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-conduct-office/student-code-of-conduct/appendix-a-academic-integrity/academic-integrity-code.php>
- VSU’s Academic Student Conduct Code states that “no student shall engage in plagiarism, which is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were the student’s own.” Content generated by an Artificial Intelligence third-party service or site (AI-generated content) without proper citation is another form of plagiarism. If you are unsure about whether something may be plagiarism or another form of academic dishonesty, please reach out to me as soon as possible.