People, Plants, and the Environment
Plant Sciences 1125

INSTRUCTORS:
Dr Mary Ann Gowdy    Dr Reid Smeda
1-49 Ag Building    204 Waters Hall
882-1014     882-1329

OFFICE HOURS: We are happy to meet with you; however, we ask that you contact us via e-mail to schedule an appointment. We can easily be reached by using the communication button on our course Blackboard site. http://courses.missouri.edu

COURSE OBJECTIVE: To explore the interdependent relationships that exist between humans, plants, and the environment we live in. Topics that will be investigated range from the historical connection between population growth and advances in plant sciences, to the impact today’s society is exerting on production agriculture and the global ecosystem. In addition, current issues such as land use, water quality, climatic changes, and biotechnology will be evaluated for viability, sustainability, human health issues, and environmental impacts.

COURSE FORMAT: Classroom activities will be supplemented with videos, group discussions, guest speakers and strategic planning sessions. Everyone’s contributions are vital to this course so you must attend and participate. To show you how highly we value your participation, we will randomly take attendance and document your level of course contributions.

TEXTBOOK: None required.

EXAMS: Short essay exams will be given. This allows you to demonstrate your ability to critically analyze subject matter and present factually based responses in an organized manner.

QUIZZES: During the semester five (5) random, unannounced, 15 point quizzes will be given. The four (4) highest scores will be used in the calculation of your course grade. Make up quizzes will NOT be given.

COURSE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE: Blackboard (http://courses.missouri.edu) will be utilized in this course. All campus computer labs provide access to Blackboard and the personnel staffing these facilities should be able to offer you basic Blackboard assistance. It is your responsibility to learn how to use Blackboard. If electronic documents are requested, you are responsible for successfully submitting the electronic materials on time. Electronic documents must be submitted and readable by the course instructors. Documents created in anything but MS Word might not be readable and hence will receive zero credit. Please talk to the course instructors if you do NOT use Word.

*** SUCCESS REQUIRES PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND COMMITMENT***
To be successful in this course you must attend and participate

COURSE COMPONENTS:
3 in class exams (100 pts each)  300 points
4 quizzes (15 pts each)     60 points
3 article evaluations (25 pts each)    75 points
Biography quiz            23 points
Random Attendance (12 @ 5 pts each)   60 points
Course Contributions (14 @ 8 pts each)  112 points
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Total points     630 points

GRADING SCALE:
98% up    = A+
93 - 97% = A
90 - 92% = A-
88 - 89% = B+
83 - 87% = B
80 - 82% = B-
78 - 79% = C+
73 - 77% = C
70 - 72% = C-
68 - 69% = D+
63 - 67% = D
60 - 62% = D-
< 60%     = F (course failure)

ADA SPECIAL NEEDS: If you need accommodations because of a disability, if you have
emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the
building must be evacuated, please inform me immediately. Please see Dr Gowdy privately after
class, or at her office, 1-49 Ag Building.

To request academic accommodations (for example, a notetaker), students must also register with
the Office of Disability Services, ( http://disabilityservices.missouri.edu/ ), S5 Memorial Union,
882-4696. It is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students
requesting academic accommodations, and for accommodations planning in cooperation with
students and instructors, as needed and consistent with course requirements. For other MU
resources for students with disabilities, click on "Disability Resources" on the MU homepage.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a
university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has
been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an
advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The
academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters.
Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the
course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt
about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the
course instructor.

INTELLECTUAL PLURALISM: The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and
respects student rights. Students who have questions concerning the quality of instruction in this
class may address concerns to either the Divisional Director of the Office of Students Rights and
Responsibilities ( http://osrr.missouri.edu/ ). All students will have the opportunity to submit an
anonymous evaluation of the instructor(s) at the end of the course.