Botany and Plant Pathology

Undergraduate Studies

Botany and plant pathology are concerned with the study of plants at all levels of biological organization, from molecular and cellular processes to the global ecosystem. This breadth of fields reflects the wide range of issues and problems that confront plant biologists. In addition to addressing fundamental questions in plant biology, plant scientists in the 21st century will be called upon to provide information useful for producing food, fiber, and medicine for an increasing population, and for increasing our understanding of the diversity of plant and ecological systems and their interactions with humans. Students studying botany and plant pathology at OSU receive the basic science background necessary for such contributions, and may choose to focus in a particular area within plant science.

The undergraduate program in the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology is designed for students who wish to receive a BS in Botany degree and for students pursuing degrees in other fields that require a knowledge of plant biology. For example, students who have an undergraduate major in biology or environmental sciences may wish to emphasize botany courses in their upper-division course work.

Completion of the undergraduate curriculum in botany can qualify students for graduate work in various areas of plant biology and plant pathology, and for positions in state and federal agencies, and industries concerned with plants and their products.

Prospective botany majors should obtain a strong background in the biological and physical sciences at the high school level. Specifically recommended are a minimum of three years of high school mathematics, including algebra, geometry, and some exposure to trigonometry, one year of chemistry, one year of biology, one year of physics, and courses designed to develop computer and writing skills. Students without an adequate background in mathematics and science may make up these deficiencies early in their college careers.

Graduate Studies

The Department of Botany and Plant Pathology offers graduate programs in the following areas of concentration: ecology, genetics, genomics and computational biology, molecular and cellular biology, mycology, plant pathology, plant physiology, and systematics.

Students with majors in any one area may incorporate into their programs minors in other areas within the department or in other departments and colleges. Integrated minors, and interdisciplinary programs in plant physiology, molecular and cellular biology, genetics, and environmental sciences are also available.

The MS and PhD degrees offered by the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology require, in addition to course work, research resulting in presentation and defense of a thesis. A nonthesis MS degree also is available. PhD candidates must pass a written and oral preliminary examination upon completion of their course work. In addition, PhD students are required to be a teaching assistant for two quarters.

Inquiries concerning graduate studies can be forwarded to the chairperson of the department’s Graduate Studies Committee (Andrew.Jones@oregonstate.edu (john.fowler@oregonstate.edu)).

Additional details available at http://bpp.oregonstate.edu/content/graduate-programs.

Undergraduate Programs

Major

• Botany (http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/college-departments/agricultural-sciences/botany-plant-pathology/botany-bs-hbs)

Options:

• Comprehensive Botany (http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/college-departments/agricultural-sciences/botany-plant-pathology/botany-bs-hbs/comprehensive-botany-option)
• Customizable (http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/college-departments/agricultural-sciences/botany-plant-pathology/botany-bs-hbs/customizable-option)
• Molecular, Cellular, and Genomic Botany (http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/college-departments/agricultural-sciences/botany-plant-pathology/botany-bs-hbs/molecular-cellular-genomic-botany-option)
• Plant Pathology (http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/college-departments/agricultural-sciences/botany-plant-pathology/botany-bs-hbs/plant-pathology-option)

Minor

• Botany (http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/college-departments/agricultural-sciences/botany-plant-pathology/botany-minor)

Graduate Programs

Major

• Botany and Plant Pathology (http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/college-departments/agricultural-sciences/botany-plant-pathology/botany-plant-pathology-ma-ms-phd)

Minor

• Botany and Plant Pathology (http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/college-departments/agricultural-sciences/botany-plant-pathology/botany-plant-pathology-graduate-minor)

Joseph Spatafora, Department Head
2082 Cordley Hall
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331-2902
541-737-3451
Email: bpp-off@science.oregonstate.edu
Website: http://bpp.oregonstate.edu/

Faculty

Professors Behrenfeld, Ciuffetti, Dolja, Fowler, Ingham, Johnson, Liston, McCune, Mundt, Pscheidt, Spatafora, Stone, Tyler, Wolpert
Associate Professors Chang, Goyer, Jaiswal, Jones, Megraw, Milligan, Ocamb, Parke, Santamaria
Assistant Professors Anderson, Busby, Dung, Frost, Graff, Hagerty, Hardison, KC, LeBoldus, Luh, Naithani, Westberry
Senior Instructor Putnam
Instructors Curtis, Link-Perez, Smyth
## Botany and Plant Pathology

### Courtesy Faculty

**Professors** Gent, Grunwald, Loper, Martin, Rothwell, Stockey  
**Associate Professors** Hansen, Kentula, Mahaffee, Pyke, Stockwell, Zasada  
**Assistant Professors** Cronn, Grevstad, Kaye, Meinke, Reichman, Weiland

### Adjunct Faculty

**Professor** Freitag

**BOT 101. *BOTANY: A HUMAN CONCERN. (4 Credits)***  
Introductory botany for non-majors, emphasizing the role of plants in the environment, agriculture and society. Includes molecular approaches to the study of plant function and genetic engineering. Lec/lab. (Bacc Core Course)  
**Attributes:** CPBS – Core, Pers, Biological Science

**BOT 220. *INTRODUCTION TO PLANT BIOLOGY. (4 Credits)***  
Introduction to plant biology including an overview of major groups of plants, plant cells and cell types, plant anatomy and architecture, physiology and function, and ecology and the roles of plants in the environment. Laboratory exercises build on lecture themes and provide hands-on learning experiences including field trips. Lec/lab. (Bacc Core Course)  
**Attributes:** CPBS – Core, Pers, Biological Science

**BOT 313. PLANT STRUCTURE. (4 Credits)**  
The structural components of vascular plants and how plant structure relates to function, development, environment, evolution, and human use of plants. Field trip. Lec/lab.

**BOT 321. PLANT SYSTEMATICS. (4 Credits)**  
Vascular plant classification, diversity, and evolutionary relationships. Lab emphasizes the collection and identification of ferns, gymnosperms, and flowering plants in Oregon. Field trips. Lec/lab.

**BOT 322. ECONOMIC AND ETHNOBOTANY: ROLE OF PLANTS IN HUMAN CULTURE. (3 Credits)**  
Economic and cultural (ethnobotanical) uses of plants and fungi by humans, including domesticated cultivated plants as well as wild-growing plants, and uses of plants and fungi by indigenous cultures. Ecampus course only.

**BOT 323. *FLOWERING PLANTS OF THE WORLD. (3 Credits)***  
Global perspective of plant biodiversity with a focus on evolutionary origins, classification, and evolutionary relationships of the major groups of plants. Development and application of scientific writing and utilization of online information resources in plant evolutionary biology. (Writing Intensive Course)  
**Attributes:** CWIC – Core, Skills, WIC

**BOT 324. *FUNGI IN SOCIETY. (3 Credits)***  
Explores the diverse roles played by fungi in relation to human civilization and the natural environment. (Bacc Core Course)  
**Attributes:** CSST – Core, Synthesis, Science/Technology/Society

**BOT 325. *INTERSECTIONS BETWEEN PLANTS AND HUMANITY. (3 Credits)***  
The unique attributes of plants—including aspects of their biochemistry, growth, structure, and physiology—have influenced all aspects of life on earth, from biogeochemical cycles to the rise and expansion of human civilizations. Plants are sources of medicines, stimulants, hallucinogens, fibers and woods, resins and latex, oils and waxes; plants have inspired technological innovation, exploration, and exploitation of people and the environment. This course critically examines the intersections of plants with society and technology by exploring the roles plants have played in both historical and modern contexts. (Bacc Core Course)  
**Attributes:** CSST – Core, Synthesis, Science/Technology/Society

**BOT 331. PLANT PHYSIOLOGY. (4 Credits)**  
Survey of physiological processes in plants, including photosynthesis and plant metabolism, mineral nutrition and ion uptake processes, plant cell/water relations, regulation of plant growth and development, and transpiration and translocation. Lec/rec.

**BOT 332. LABORATORY TECHNIQUES IN PLANT BIOLOGY. (3 Credits)**  
Laboratory experiences in the manipulation and observation of physiological processes in plant systems. Analysis and interpretation of physiological data generated in experimentation with plant systems. Training in basic laboratory skills, including the principles and procedures involved in the use of common items of laboratory instrumentation. Lab.

**BOT 341. PLANT ECOLOGY. (4 Credits)**  
Study of higher plants in relation to their environment. The relationship of plant physiology and reproduction to environmental factors; competition and other species interactions; the structure, dynamics and analysis of vegetation. Field trips. Lec/lab.

**BOT 350. INTRODUCTORY PLANT PATHOLOGY. (4 Credits)**  
Symptoms, causal agents, diagnosis, and prevention of plant diseases, with emphasis on fungi, bacteria, nematode, and virus pathogens. Lec/lab.

**BOT 401. RESEARCH. (1-16 Credits)**  
This course is repeatable for 16 credits.

**BOT 403. THESIS. (1-16 Credits)**  
This course is repeatable for 16 credits.

**BOT 405. READING AND CONFERENCE. (1-16 Credits)**  
This course is repeatable for 16 credits.

**BOT 406. PROJECTS: CURATORIAL ASSISTANT. (1-6 Credits)**  
Students assist with curatorial projects in the OSU Herbarium. Admission is by application to the Department of Botany & Plant Pathology.  
This course is repeatable for 6 credits.

**BOT 407. SEMINAR. (1 Credit)**  
Section 1: Departmental seminar. Section 2: Lichens and Bryophytes Research (1). Weekly one-hour meetings for reporting and discussion of active research projects, discussion of proposal research, review and discussion of recent literature, and mini-workshops on particular problems. Normally graded P/N.  
**Equivalent to:** BI 407H, BOT 407H  
This course is repeatable for 16 credits.
BOT 407H. SEMINAR. (1 Credit)
Section 1: Departmental seminar. Section 3: Lichens and Bryophytes Research (1). Weekly one-hour meetings for reporting and discussion of active research projects, discussion of proposal research, review and discussion of recent literature, and mini-workshops on particular problems. Normally graded P/N.
Attributes: HNRS – Honors Course Designator
Equivalent to: BOT 407
This course is repeatable for 16 credits.

BOT 408. WORKSHOP. (1-16 Credits)
This course is repeatable for 16 credits.

BOT 410. INTERNSHIP. (1-16 Credits)
This course is repeatable for 16 credits.

BOT 413. FOREST PATHOLOGY. (3 Credits)
Effects of diseases on forest ecosystems. Recognition of important groups, prediction of pathogen responses to environmental changes, and management strategies for protection of forest resources. Field trips. Lec/lab. CROSSLISTED as FOR 413.
Prerequisites: BI 204 with C or better or BI 212 with C or better or BI 212H with C or better or BI 213 with C or better or BI 213H with C or better
Equivalent to: FOR 413

BOT 414. AGROSTOLOGY. (4 Credits)
Classification and identification of grasses, with emphasis on the modern system of grass classification; laboratory practice in keying grass specimens to genus and species. Lec/lab.

BOT 416. AQUATIC BOTANY. (4 Credits)
Taxonomy and ecology of aquatic vegetation, emphasizing freshwater and marine algae and the submersent vascular plants. Morphology, physiology, and classification of the algae; morphological and physiological adaptations of aquatic vascular plants; and primary production in aquatic ecosystems. Laboratory practice in the identification of local taxa. Field trips. Lec/lab.

BOT 425. FLORA OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST. (3 Credits)
Vascular plant identification, terminology, and diagnostic characteristics of plant families. Lab emphasizes the use of keys for identification to the species level and ability to recognize by sight those plant families found in the Pacific Northwest. Field trips. Lec/lab.

BOT 440. FIELD METHODS IN PLANT ECOLOGY. (4 Credits)
Concepts and tools for describing, monitoring, and experimenting on vegetation. Combines Web-based material, field experience at the student’s location, and student projects.

BOT 442. PLANT POPULATION ECOLOGY. (3 Credits)
Ecological aspects of plant form and reproduction; demography and population modeling; species interactions, including competition, mutualism, and herbivory. Lec/lab.

BOT 458. ECOSYSTEMS GENOMICS. (3 Credits)
Genomic approaches used to understand species interactions with a focus on plant-associated microbes. Learning the conceptual framework and computational techniques of genomics to study the ecology of plant-microbe interactions at the ecosystem level.
Prerequisites: BI 311 with D- or better and BI 314 [D-]

BOT 460. FUNCTIONAL GENOMICS. (3 Credits)
Functional genomics describes a set of conceptual approaches and associated laboratory techniques that rely on large-scale DNA sequence datasets to investigate the function of, and interactions between, genes as well as their RNA/protein products. This course will provide an overview of these techniques, including a) approaches to predicting protein function based on sequence analysis, b) large-scale genetic approaches to identifying novel genotype-phenotype associations, and c) transcriptomic, proteomic and metabolomic approaches that reveal gene functions by measuring changes in abundance/modification of associated RNA transcripts, proteins and metabolites.
Prerequisites: (BI 311 with C- or better or BI 311H with C- or better) and (BI 314 [C-] or BI 314H [C-])

BOT 461. MYCOLOGY. (5 Credits)
A broad taxonomic survey of the fungi. Topics include life histories, systematics, ecology, genetics, and ethnomyology. Participation on field trips and the submission of a specimen collection are required. Lec/lab.

BOT 465. LICHENOLOGY. (4 Credits)
Biology of lichens; includes structure, life histories, classification, and ecology. Field trip fee. Lec/lab. Offered alternate years.

BOT 466. BRYOLOGY. (4 Credits)
Biology of bryophytes; includes structure, life histories, classification, and ecology. Field trip fee. Lec/lab. Offered alternate years.

BOT 475. COMPARATIVE GENOMICS. (4 Credits)
Prerequisites: (BI 311 with D- or better or CSS 430 with D- or better) and BI 314 [D-]

BOT 476. INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTING IN THE LIFE SCIENCES. (3 Credits)
Introduction to management of large datasets (e.g., nucleic acids, protein), computer programming languages, application of basic mathematical functions, and assembly of computational pipelines pertinent to life sciences.

BOT 480. PHOTOSYNTHESIS AND PHOTOBIOLOGY. (3 Credits)
Explores the diverse use of light in biological systems, with particular emphasis on photosynthesis. Lectures will discuss the nature of light, light in the natural environment, light absorption in biological systems, use of light energy for photosynthesis, communication, defense, motility, and vision, as well as deleterious effects of light and its use for global monitoring satellite systems.

BOT 488. ENVIRONMENTAL PHYSIOLOGY OF PLANTS. (3 Credits)
Introduces students to mechanisms of plant responses to environmental change caused by humans, including atmospheric, nutrient, water, and global climate factors. Concepts are built around principles of plant environment relations. Lec/lab.

BOT 499. SPECIAL TOPICS. (0-16 Credits)
Equivalent to: BOT 499H
This course is repeatable for 16 credits.

BOT 499H. SPECIAL TOPICS. (1-16 Credits)
Attributes: HNRS – Honors Course Designator
Equivalent to: BOT 499
This course is repeatable for 16 credits.
BOT 501. RESEARCH. (1-16 Credits) Grade P/N.
This course is repeatable for 16 credits.

BOT 503. THESIS. (1-16 Credits) Grade P/N.
This course is repeatable for 999 credits.

BOT 505. READING AND CONFERENCE. (1-16 Credits) Grade P/N.
This course is repeatable for 16 credits.

BOT 507. SEMINAR. (1-16 Credits) Grade P/N.
Section 1: Departmental seminar (F, W, S). Section 2: Communication in Ecology (F). Section 3: Community and Habitat Analyses (W). Section 4: Lichens and Bryophytes Research (S). Weekly one-hour meetings for reporting and discussions of proposal research, review and discussion of recent literature, and mini-workshops on particular problems. Graded P/N. This course is repeatable for 16 credits.

BOT 508. WORKSHOP. (1-16 Credits) Grade P/N.
This course is repeatable for 16 credits.

BOT 510. INTERNSHIP. (1-16 Credits) Grade P/N.
This course is repeatable for 16 credits.

BOT 513. FOREST PATHOLOGY. (3 Credits) Grade P/N.
Effects of diseases on forest ecosystems. Recognition of important groups, prediction of pathogen responses to environmental changes, and management strategies for protection of forest resources. Field trips. Lec/lab. CROSSLISTED as FOR 513.
Equivalent to: FOR 513

BOT 514. AGROSTOLOGY. (4 Credits) Grade P/N.
Classification and identification of grasses, with emphasis on the modern system of grass classification; laboratory practice in keying grass specimens to genus and species. Lec/lab.

BOT 516. AQUATIC BOTANY. (4 Credits) Grade P/N.
Taxonomy and ecology of aquatic vegetation, emphasizing freshwater and marine algae and the submergent vascular plants. Morphology, physiology, and classification of the algae; morphological and physiological adaptations of aquatic vascular plants; and primary production in aquatic ecosystems. Laboratory practice in the identification of local taxa. Field trips. Lec/lab.

BOT 525. FLORA OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST. (3 Credits) Grade P/N.
Vascular plant identification, terminology, and diagnostic characteristics of plant families. Lab emphasizes the use of keys for identification to the species level and ability to recognize by sight those plant families found in the Pacific Northwest. Field trips. Lec/lab.

BOT 540. FIELD METHODS IN PLANT ECOLOGY. (4 Credits) Grade P/N.
Concepts and tools for describing, monitoring, and experimenting on vegetation. Combines Web-based material, field experience at the student's location, and student projects.

BOT 542. PLANT POPULATION ECOLOGY. (3 Credits) Grade P/N.
Ecological aspects of plant form and reproduction; demography and population modeling; species interactions, including competition, mutualism, and herbivory. Lec/lab.

BOT 543. PLANT COMMUNITY ECOLOGY. (3 Credits) Grade P/N.
The structure, diversity, and successional dynamics of terrestrial plant communities; methods of analysis. Lec/lab.

BOT 547. NUTRIENT CYCLING. (3 Credits) Grade P/N.
Reviews and discusses ecosystem-level biogeochemical concepts for terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, primarily by reading and discussing classic and current literature to determine the state-of-knowledge and uncertainties associated with it. Topics will include root nutrient uptake mechanisms, soil chemical and biochemical transformations in different soil and ecosystems, measuring soil solution and watershed fluxes, soil organic matter formation and structure, the meaning of sustainability, the concept of N saturation in terrestrial ecosystems, and the use of natural abundance and tracer isotopes in ecosystem biogeochemistry. While forest biogeochemical processes will be emphasized, desert, aquatic, wetland, and prairie ecosystems will also be explored. CROSSLISTED as SOIL 547.
Equivalent to: SOIL 547

BOT 550. PLANT PATHOLOGY. (5 Credits) Grade P/N.
Causal agents of plant disease, diagnosis, pathogenesis, epidemiology, and disease management principles and strategies. Field trip. Lec/lab/rec.

BOT 552. PLANT DISEASE MANAGEMENT. (4 Credits) Grade P/N.
Analysis of host, pathogen, and environmental factors influencing the increase and spread of plant disease. Epidemiological theory will be used as a basis for developing and evaluating principles and concepts of plant disease management. Lec/lab/rec. Offered alternate years.

BOT 553. PLANT DISEASE DIAGNOSIS. (3 Credits) Grade P/N.
Diagnosis of plant diseases and identification of causal agents. Laboratory practice in identification techniques. Observation of symptoms exhibited by diseased plants in greenhouse and field locations. Field trips. Lec/lab. Offered alternate years in summer term.

BOT 554. BIOLOGY OF NEMATODES. (4 Credits) Grade P/N.
Survey of basic biology and biodiversity of nematodes. Includes taxonomy, identification, life cycles, ecology and pathology, and interaction with other organisms. Lec/lab. Offered alternate years. This course is repeatable for 4 credits.

BOT 556. PHYLOGENETICS. (4 Credits) Grade P/N.
Explores the theory and practice of modern phylogenetic analysis. Emphasis placed on tree reconstruction algorithms, assessment of statistical support, and contemporary issues in phylogenetics. Lab will focus on the use of phylogenetic software and the analysis of molecular data sets. Lec/lab.

BOT 558. ECOSYSTEM GENOMICS. (3 Credits) Grade P/N.
Genomic approaches used to understand species interactions with a focus on plant-associated microbes. Learning the conceptual framework and computational techniques of genomics to study the ecology of plant-microbe interactions at the ecosystem level.

BOT 560. FUNCTIONAL GENOMICS. (3 Credits) Grade P/N.
Functional genomics describes a set of conceptual approaches and associated laboratory techniques that rely on large-scale DNA sequence datasets to investigate the function of, and interactions between, genes as well as their RNA/protein products. This course will provide an overview of these techniques, including a) approaches to predicting protein function based on sequence analysis, b) large-scale genetic approaches to identifying novel genotype-phenotype associations, and c) transcriptomic, proteomic and metabolomic approaches that reveal gene functions by measuring changes in abundance/modification of associated RNA transcripts, proteins and metabolites.
BOT 561. MYCOLOGY. (5 Credits)  
A broad taxonomic survey of the fungi. Topics include life histories, systematics, ecology, genetics, and ethnomycology. Participation on field trips and the submission of a specimen collection are required. Lec/lab.

BOT 565. LICHENOLOGY. (4 Credits)  
Biology of lichens; includes structure, life histories, classification, and ecology. Field trip fee. Lec/lab. Offered alternate years.

BOT 566. BRYOLOGY. (4 Credits)  
Biology of bryophytes; includes structure, life histories, classification, and ecology. Field trip fee. Lec/lab. Offered alternate years.

BOT 570. COMMUNITY STRUCTURE AND ANALYSIS. (4 Credits)  
Quantitative methods for the analysis of biotic communities, including community concepts, estimation of community composition parameters, theoretical aspects of multivariate methods of analyzing species-importance data, and overview of multivariate tools; hands-on computer analysis of data sets. Lec/lab.

BOT 575. COMPARATIVE GENOMICS. (4 Credits)  
Equivalent to: MCB 575

BOT 576. INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTING IN THE LIFE SCIENCES. (3 Credits)  
Introduction to management of large datasets (e.g., nucleic acids, protein), computer programming languages, application of basic mathematical functions, and assembly of computational pipelines pertinent to life sciences. CROSSLISTED as MCB 576.  
Equivalent to: MCB 576

BOT 580. PHOTOSYNTHESIS AND PHOTOBIOLOGY. (3 Credits)  
Explores the diverse use of light in biological systems, with particular emphasis on photosynthesis. Lectures will discuss the nature of light, light in the natural environment, light absorption in biological systems, use of light energy for photosynthesis, communication, defense, motility, and vision, as well as deleterious effects of light and its use for global monitoring satellite systems.

BOT 588. ENVIRONMENTAL PHYSIOLOGY OF PLANTS. (3 Credits)  
Introduces students to mechanisms of plant responses to environmental change caused by humans, including atmospheric, nutrient, water, and global climate factors. Concepts are built around principles of plant environment relations. Lec/lab.

BOT 590. SELECTED TOPICS IN MYCOLOGY. (1-3 Credits)  
Advanced topics in mycology through analysis of current literature. Detailed study of an aspect of mycology beyond those covered in regular classes. Seminar and discussion format.  
This course is repeatable for 16 credits.

BOT 599. SPECIAL TOPICS. (0-16 Credits)  
This course is repeatable for 16 credits.

BOT 601. RESEARCH. (1-16 Credits)  
Graded P/N.  
This course is repeatable for 16 credits.

BOT 603. THESIS. (1-16 Credits)  
This course is repeatable for 999 credits.

BOT 605. READING AND CONFERENCE. (1-16 Credits)  
This course is repeatable for 16 credits.