



Oregon State University

Ecampus

Course Name: Fungi in Society

Course Number: BOT 324

Credits: 3 Credits

Communication

Please post all course-related questions in the weekly Q&A Discussion Board in Canvas so that the whole class may benefit. Please email your instructor for matters of a personal nature. The instructor will reply to course-related questions and emails within 24–48 hours, and will strive to grade assignments within one week of the due date.

Course Description

While fungi receive significant attention in terms of their wide culinary uses, these fascinating organisms are so much more than simply mushrooms. Fungi play integral roles in nearly every aspect of life, and are in fact largely responsible for maintaining the cycle of life on our planet. Without continual decomposition by these life forms, the leaves that coat forest floors at the end of each fall season would never break down; essentially, the world would be lost under a layer of organic debris. Fungi are found in nearly every ecosystem, from soil to human skin. They make us ill, but they also save our lives. Fungi feed humanity, promote the growth of most plants, and may protect important food crops against pests, but they also cause famine. Humans manipulate fungi for use in art, culture, medicine, industry, and more; fungi have even turned the tide of war. This course will explore the diverse roles played by fungi in relation to humanity and the natural environment, and will touch on some of the ways in which humans have in fact influenced fungi.

Learning Outcomes: This is a Baccalaureate Core Synthesis Course in the Science, Technology, and Society category. Learning outcomes associated with courses in this category include:

- Analyze relationships among science, technology, and society using critical perspectives or examples from historical, political, or economic disciplines
- Analyze the role of science and technology in shaping diverse fields of study over time
- Articulate in writing a critical perspective on issues involving science, technology, and society using evidence as support

Additional learning outcomes associated with this synthesis course include:

- Evaluate the ecological interconnectivity of fungi with other organisms
- Identify key concepts in fungal biology
- Appraise and assess scientific literature
- Explain how fungi help to maintain the biosphere and how humans influence and utilize fungi globally

Course Topics: This course will cover a wide variety of important topics related to fungi and their interactions with human society/ecosystems. Topics will include:

1. A brief introduction to fungi
2. Decomposition
3. Nutrition
4. Fermentation
5. Symbioses
6. Plant pathology
7. Animal pathology
8. Medicine
9. Genetic engineering
10. Industrial mycology
11. Fungi in art
12. Folklore and tradition

Course Materials and Resources

Reference texts (optional)

- Fungal Biology, 4th Ed. (Jim Deacon)
- Introduction to Fungi, 3rd Ed. (John Webster and Roland Weber)
- All That the Rain Promises and More: A Hip Pocket Guide to Western Mushrooms (David Arora)
- Magical Mushrooms, Mischievous Molds (George W. Hudler)
- In the Company of Mushrooms: A Biologist's Tale (Elio Schaechter)
- Mr. Bloomfield's Orchard: The Mysterious World of Mushrooms, Molds, and Mycologists (Nicholas P. Money)

You are NOT required to purchase any texts for this course. Required course readings (predominantly from the peer-reviewed literature) will be provided on Canvas.

Note to prospective students: Please check with the OSU Bookstore for up-to-date information for the term you enroll ([OSU Bookstore Website](#) or 800-595-0357). If you purchase course materials from other sources, be very careful to obtain the correct ISBN.

Evaluation of Student Performance

Available Points

Topic study	45	(9%)
Outside Activity/Article	45	(9%)
Discussion Board Posts (20 x 5 points each)	100	(20%)
Start Here Quiz	10	(2%)
Quizzes (7 x 20 points each; lowest dropped)	120	(24%)
Exams (3 x 60 points each)	<u>180</u>	(36%)
	500	

Grading scale

A	100-93	B	86-83	C	76-73	D	66-63
A -	93-90	B-	82-80	C-	72-70	D-	62-60
B+	89-87	C+	79-77	D+	69-67	F	59 and below

Late Work

Students are expected to turn in assignments on time. Students are penalized 20% per day for late assignments. **Late quizzes and exams will not be accepted.**

Quizzes – Start Here Quiz and Weekly Quizzes

Seven timed quizzes will be given in Canvas during the term. You will have three days during which you will be able to complete each quiz (Friday, Saturday and Sunday), and the quizzes will be **due by 11:59 pm on Sundays**. Once you begin each quiz, you will have 30 minutes to finish it, and you must finish it in one sitting. You are encouraged to study with your classmates, but you cannot consult others while taking the quiz (you can use your course notes). Your lowest quiz score will be dropped. Your six highest quiz scores will constitute 24% of your final course grade.

Exams

Three exams will be given during this course. Exams are open book and not cumulative, and you will not need a proctor. You will have three days during which you will be able to complete each exam (Friday, Saturday and Sunday), and exams will be **due by 11:59 pm on Sunday** on the weeks they are given (during a given week, you will have an exam or a quiz, but not both). There will NOT be a final exam during finals week. Makeup exams will be given only for missed exams excused in advance by the instructor. Excused absences will generally not be given after the absence has occurred, except under very unusual circumstances.

Required Reading

One required reading assignment will be provided each week on Canvas. These readings will primarily be sourced from the peer-reviewed literature, and will include both modern and classical topics. Your weekly Discussion Board contributions will focus on these readings. I may provide extra readings and articles each week, but these will not be required. **IMPORTANT:** questions about required reading assignments are fair game on quizzes and exams.

Weekly Discussion Board Assignments

Each week, you will contribute at least twice to the Discussion Board in Canvas. The Discussion Board will allow you to consider your reading assignments in greater detail with your fellow students! **Your first weekly post will be due by Thursday at 11:59pm, and your second will be due by Sunday at 11:59 pm.** At least one of your posts must be a response to a fellow classmate. Posts must be at least 50 words in length, and should use proper grammar and punctuation. See the Week 1 Discussion Board on Canvas for more details.

Topic Study

One 1- to 2-page topic study will be **due by Sunday, March 19 at 11:59pm**. For this assignment, students will review one lecture topic of their choosing. **HINT:** When choosing a topic it will be simpler, for example, to discuss lichens (or even a specific lichen), rather than focusing on symbiosis as a whole.

Your topic study should cite four references at minimum, at least two of which were not from assigned readings. The outside references should be sourced from peer-reviewed journals or otherwise approved by the instructor beforehand. A reference formatting guideline is provided for you in Canvas. Ten percent of the grade for this assignment will be based on writing competency (grammar, spelling, sentence structure, etc.). I highly recommend that you visit the Online Writing Lab (OWL) through OSU's [Writing Center](#) website if you need assistance. Topic studies can be submitted any time on or before the due date.

Your topic study should at minimum address the following:

1. Briefly describe a few important characteristics of your topic
2. How does this topic affect human society and/or ecosystems locally and/or globally?
3. Describe how this topic may be relevant to your own life

Topic studies should be typed with 1-inch margins, line spacing at 1.5, and a font size of 12 (Times New Roman, Calibri, or Cambria).

Outside Activity/Article

Attend one local event (lecture, discussion, film screening, field trip, etc.) related to class topics and turn in 2–3 paragraphs describing it. This will be **due by Sunday, March 12 at 11:59pm**. Write-ups should be typed with 1-inch margins, line spacing at 1.5, and a font size of 12 (Times New Roman, Calibri, or Cambria). Alternatively, you can choose an article to review from the peer-reviewed literature (email your instructor with the article or a link to it for approval beforehand). In your write-up for this assignment, briefly address the important points of the event/article, describe how the particular fungus/fungi discussed in the event/article impact humans (or how humans impact the fungus/fungi), and describe how this might impact you personally.

Extra Credit Project

Find a video online (YouTube, Discovery Channel, History Channel, Nature, TED Talks, etc.) that informs you about something fungus-related (animated videos are acceptable). The video must be at least 3 minutes long. In 2–3 paragraphs: (1) briefly summarize the contents of the video, (2) describe something new that you learned from the video, (3) describe how what you learned from the video may impact your life or human society and/or ecosystems locally and/or globally. Email your instructor with a link to the video for approval beforehand. You will post your text and video to Canvas to share with the group (if you'd prefer to share this anonymously, please let me know). This extra credit assignment will be **due on Sunday, March 19 by 11:59pm, and will be worth up to 15 points**.

Turnitin Plagiarism Detection Software

Your written assignments will be submitted (by your instructor) to the Canvas-Turnitin plagiarism prevention service. **Your assignments will be checked for potential plagiarism against internet sources, academic journal articles and the work of other students.** Turnitin generates a report that highlights any potentially unoriginal text in your paper. You will retain all rights to your written work. Plagiarism will result in a zero grade for the associated assignment, and may result in a failing grade for the course.

Incompletes

Incomplete (I) grades will be granted only in emergency cases (usually only for a death in the family, major illness or injury, or birth of your child), and if the student has turned in 80% of the points possible. If you are having any difficulty that might prevent you completing the coursework, please don't wait until the end of the term; let your instructor know right away.

Oregon State University Policies and Other Information

Guidelines for a Productive and Effective Online Classroom

Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course in compliance with the university's regulations regarding civility. Civility is an essential ingredient for academic discourse, and all communications for this course should be conducted constructively, professionally and respectfully. Differences in beliefs, opinions, and approaches are to be expected. Please bring any communications you believe to be in violation of this class policy to the attention of your instructor. Active interaction with peers and your instructor is essential to success in this online course, paying particular attention to the following:

- Unless indicated otherwise, please complete the readings and view other instructional materials for each week before participating in the discussion board.
- Read your posts carefully before submitting them.
- Be respectful of others and their opinions, valuing diversity in backgrounds, abilities, and experiences.
- Challenging others' ideas is an integral aspect of critical thinking and the academic process. Please word your responses to peers carefully, and recognize that others may challenge your ideas as well. A positive atmosphere of healthy debate is encouraged.

Tutoring

[NetTutor](#) is a leading provider of online tutoring and learner support services fully staffed by experienced, trained and monitored tutors. Students connect to live tutors from any computer that has Internet access. NetTutor provides a virtual whiteboard that allows tutors and students to work on problems in a real time environment. They also have an online writing lab where tutors critique and return essays within 24 to 48 hours. Access NetTutor from within your Canvas class by clicking on the Tools button in your course menu.

Accessibility of Course Materials

Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty, and [Disability Access Services \(DAS\)](#). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098.

Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities

Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by Disability Access Services (DAS). If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098 or at visit OSU's [Disability Access Services](#) website. DAS notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations.

Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct

Please familiarize yourself with OSU's expectations of student conduct by exploring OSU's [Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards](#) website. Students are expected to treat one another with dignity and respect, and to abide by OSU's student conduct policies. Academic dishonesty is strictly prohibited.

Technical Assistance

If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, need assistance logging into the course, or if you experience any errors or problems while in your online course, contact the OSU Help Desk for assistance. You can call 541-737-3474, email osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu or visit the [OSU Computer Helpdesk](#) online.
