**COURSE SYLLABUS – BIO 415 Plant Nutrition**

**(Fall 2020)**

**Instructors:** Ismail Cakmak (cakmak@sabanciuniv.edu) & Levent Ozturk (Lozturk@sabanciuniv.edu)

**TA:** Asal Ghaffari Zaki (asal@sabanciuniv.edu)

**Office & Hours:** Any time by appointment.

**Lecture Sessions:** Monday, 2:40-4:30 pm; Tuesday, 10:40-11:30 am

**Zoom Links and Passcodes:** (passcode subject to change at intervals)

Ismail Cakmak

https://sabanciuniv.zoom.us/j/4496532958

Passcode: (none)

Levent Ozturk

https://sabanciuniv.zoom.us/j/7260077994?pwd=YkViSGR4T3BYc20rRDRKWjdkWCtnUT09

Passcode: linkLO

**About BIO 415 Plant Nutrition**

Last Offered: 2020 Fall

Faculty: Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences

Subject: Molecular Biology Genetics & Bioengineering (BIO)

SU Credit: 3

ECTS Credit: 6.00 / 5.00 ECTS (for students admitted in the 2013-14 Academic Year or following years)

Level of Course: Undergraduate

Prerequisites (only for SU students): --

**Content**

Uptake mechanisms of mineral nutrients, their transport in xylem and phloem, mineral nutrition in yield formation, physiological functions of mineral nutrients, relationship between mineral nutrition and plant diseases, diagnosis of nutrient deficiencies and toxicities, genotypic variation in mineral nutrition and soil and plant factors affecting nutrient availability in rhizosphere.

**Learning Outcome**

Upon completion of this course students should be able to:

* Characterize and identify leaf deficiency and toxicity symptoms of mineral nutrients in crop plants.
* Describe essential steps of root absorption, shoot transport, leaf remobilization and seed deposition of mineral nutrients.
* Describe critical functions of mineral nutrients in plant growth and stress tolerance.
* Characterize the relationships between mineral nutrition and tolerance to diseases in crop plants.
* Understand how plants modify rhizosphere soil chemically and biologically when exposed to a nutrient deficiency.

**Course Materials**

Instructor slides will be the main course material and will be available on SUcourse+ (restricted for redistribution, some parts may be subject to international copyrights).

Computer with camera and internet connection. Make sure your battery is charged and you have a smartphone hotspot connection ready as a backup to home internet to be able to participate in-session quizzes without interruption.

**Grading Policy (% impact on final grade):**

**Attendance (15%)** – Attendance to lecture sessions will have an impact of 15% on final grade. Missing >15 min of a session will be regarded as absence.

**Term Paper (20%)** – Due date is end of the classes (8 January, 2021 until 23:59). The term paper must be 2000-2500 words long including Title, Abstract of 200-250 words, Introduction, and Results and Discussion sections, but excluding the References section. Term papers must provide a comprehensive information on the physiological functions of the selected nutrient. It must also include latest research and results about the selected nutrient by referring to five recent articles published in Q1 journals. The “Term Paper” and “Presentation” topics must be the same and selected from any of macro or micronutrients. The selected nutrient must be declared until Week 10 using the spreadsheet in the following link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GDt0PRsLjUAYTiZtpImWYhOtnCUFe9df/view?usp=sharing

**Presentation (25%)** – (see “Student Presentation Rules and Schedule” below)

**Final Exam (40%)** – The final exam will be held online and will be composed of essay questions.

**Make-up Policy:**

Missing homework due dates, presentation, or the final exam results in a zero grade for that specific grading item. No scheduled make-ups will be offered for a missed grading item. In case a student misses his/her presentation or the final exam due to an emergency with a valid excuse (*e.g.* a written proof of doctor’s report, accident report, etc.) the instructor and TA must be informed within the same week. In such a case, a separate exam will be given at a time and date determined by the instructor.

**Policies on Attendance, Classroom Behavior and Cheating:**

Attendance to all on-line live lecture sessions is essential for understanding and interpreting the course material and asking questions to the instructor. Attendance to lecture sessions will have an impact of 15% on final grade. Student presentation sessions have a separate attendance policy (see the “Student Presentation Rules and Schedule” below).

In case of absence in lecture sessions, it is the student’s responsibility to check the syllabus, retrieve the associated course materials from on-line resources (listed above) and discuss the missed sections with classmates. Students will be responsible from all course slides and any other material presented during lectures (excluding the parts out of context as declared by the instructor).

Sabanci University’s regulations on plagiarism and cheating will be strictly enforced on students who help, attempt, or conduct any form of cheating.

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF COURSE ACTIVITIES, ASSIGNMENTS & EXAMS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Week** | **\*Activity/Chapter** |
| **1** | 1) Remember Basic Properties of Soils, Plant Body and Plant Cell  |
| **2** | 2) Changes in Root Morphology and Physiology under Nutrient Deficiencies and Metal Toxicities |
| **3** | 3) Synergism and Antagonism between Mineral Nutrients During their Root Uptake and Transport in Plants  |
| **4** | 4) Xylem and Phloem Transport of Nutrients, and Diagnosis and Interpretation of Nutrient Deficiency and Toxicity Symptoms in Plants |
| **5** | 5) Key things to Know for each Mineral Nutrient |
| **6** | 6) Relationships between Mineral Nutrition and Use of Herbicides (e.g., Glyphosate) in Crop Plants |
| **7** | 7) Key Roles of Potassium in Plant Growth and Yield Formation |
| **8** | 8) Key Roles of Magnesium in Plant Growth and Yield Formation |
| **9** | 9) Key Roles of Phosphorus and Sulfur in Plant Growth  |
| **10** | 10) Key Roles of Calcium in Plant Growth  |
| **11** | 11) Key Roles of Micronutrients in Plant Growth and Yield Formation 12) Major Functions of Zinc in Plant Growth and Yield Formation 13) Major Functions of Boron in Plant Growth and Yield Formation  14) Major Functions of Nickel in Plant Growth15) Role of Mineral Nutrition in Mitigation of Diseases and Pest Attack16) Role of Seed Nutrient Density in Germination and Seedling Vigor17) Food and Nutrition Security18) Human Nutritional Aspects of Mineral Nutrition of Crop Plants |
| **\*\*12** |  |
| **\*\*13** |  |
| **\*\*14** |  |

**\***subject to change during the semester

**\*\***weeks of student presentation sessions

**Student Presentation Rules and Schedule**

1. Student presentations will be delivered during weeks 12 through 14 during the course hours (see schedule below) on Zoom via the screen share function on a live session. The full session will be recorded to use in grading and as a proof of attendance.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week of Term** | **Chapters\*** | **Presenting Students (\*\*TBA)** | **Date and time** |
| 12 | Boron | Elshanawany, Rahaf H. | 21 December14:40-15:30 |
| 12 | Nickel | Ertem, İdil | 21 December15:40-16:30 |
| 12 | Potassium | Güreşçi, Dilara | 22 December10:40-11:30 |
| 13 | Iron | Koperly, Yasameen N. | 28 December14:40-15:30 |
| 13 | Calcium | Kulbashna, Anna | 28 December15:40-16:30 |
| 13 | Magnesium | Onbaşı, Burak | 29 December10:40-11:30 |
| 14 | Sulphur | Rükün, Tuğçe | 04 January14:40-15:30 |
| 14 | Zinc | Şenkaya, Nevra | 04 January15:40-16:30 |

\*subject to change

\*\*to be announced

1. During the student presentation sessions, full time attendance is required (missing >10 min of a session will be regarded as absence). You may miss only one student presentation without a penalty, however if you miss more than one, then your final grade will be reduced by one letter grade (i.e. A to A-). In case a student misses a presentation session due to an emergency with a valid excuse (e.g. a written proof of doctor’s report, accident report, etc.) the instructor and TA must be informed within the same week.
2. Although your course slides and text book is the main source to build up your PowerPoint presentation, you are encouraged to research other resources from the IC (<https://www.sabanciuniv.edu/bm/en>) and the internet to design and enrich your presentation.
3. Students assigned to a chapter are responsible for sharing the chapter content (i.e. sub-topics in a chapter) among themselves.
4. Having learned your presentation chapter and shared the sub-topics with your presentation partner, you should then prepare your slides (e.g. 10-15 slides) that would cover a 30 min (± 5 min) presentation. At the end of your presentation (in your last slide) ask a very important/relevant essay question and give the answer to it. Note that your question may appear in the final exam (with or without modifications). Trivial questions that are not relevant, professionally thought, grammatically perfect or do not really teach anything will be disregarded and replaced by the instructor.
5. Your presentation will be evaluated according to the criteria below (in order of priority), and your presentation grade will have an impact of 25% on your final letter grade as stated in the syllabus published in SUcourse+.
* A comprehensive coverage of the chapter sub-topics assigned
* Use of language, grammar, typeset, units of measurement
* Visual quality of the presentation material (titles, bullets, tables, font size, figures, tables, photos, slide numbers, etc.)
* Time management (30 ± 5 min)
* Voice modulation, use of body language, eye contact, interactive strategies
1. Presentations must be uploaded to SUcourse+ as a single “.pptx” file before the presentation day.
2. Some precautions during the student presentation sessions:
* Make sure your camera is working and turned on.
* The instructor will make the presenter a co-host to share his/her screen.
* Make sure the light is coming towards your face and not on your back.
* Have your smartphone hotspot connection ready as a backup to home internet.
* Keep your mic off if not presenting or asking a question to the presenter.