

BIOLOGY 163
Syllabus
Spring 2007

INSTRUCTOR: Kevin Lien

OFFICE: Building 7, Room 202 #46, Portland Community College, Rock Creek Campus, 17705
NW Springville Rd., Portland, OR., 97229

PHONE: 503-614-7460

EMAIL: klien@pcc.edu

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 1-3; Tuesday 3-4; Tuesday and Wednesday 8-9 or by appointment.

MATERIALS: Purchase Scantron Form 882-ES (50 per side) at the bookstore before each
lecture exam.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Organic Gardening (CRN 23385) is a four credit course that
introduces the structure and function of soils including the soil food web, composting and
compost tea, and the basics of biogeochemical cycling. The course also explores basic plant
anatomy, and growing flowers, vegetables and fruits in the Pacific Northwest including organic
pest control, beneficial insects, and pruning and grafting. There is no prerequisite for this course,
although an interest in plants and a basic high school biology course are recommended.

TEXTBOOKS:

Sustainable Gardening. 2003. The Oregon State University Extension Service, Corvallis, Oregon.

Soil Biology Primer. 2001. Tugel, A.J., A.M. Lewandowski, eds. [online]. Available:
http://soils.usda.gov/sqi/concepts/soil_biology/biology.html

Guidebook: Natural Gardening, Metro [online]. Available <http://www.metro-region.org/article.cfm?articleid=645>

QUIZZES AND EXAMINATIONS: Two lecture exams will be given. There will be one midterm
exam and a comprehensive final exam that will emphasize material in the last portion of the
course. The midterm exam will be worth 100 points, and the final will also be worth 100 points.
The exams may include multiple choice, fill-in the blank, true/false, labeling, short answer and
essay. Exams may not be taken late. Contact me in advance if you cannot make an exam. The
course includes a lab. The lecture portion of the course is worth 70% of the final grade and the
lab portion is worth 30%. The lab will be graded on a combination of weekly quizzes and post-lab
question sets.

Students will earn 40 points by doing Learning Garden research or a Service Learning project and presenting their findings in both written and oral forms. Student plots will be evaluated for organic gardening principles. Successful completion of the student plot will be worth 20 points.

CREDIT AND CLASS HOURS: This is a four credit hour course consisting of three lecture hours per week and three lab hours per week for the term

EVALUATION: Grades will be completed on a percent basis from the total of your lecture and laboratory scores. The following scale is suggested as realistic:

A = 90% and above

B = 80% to 89%

C = 70% to 79%

D = 60% to 69%

Note: Auditing and Pass/No Pass options are only available to students who attend regularly. The audit option needs to be declared within the first three weeks of the term, while the P/NP option needs to be declared within the first eight weeks.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: Any student who cheats will receive an automatic grade of zero for that assignment or exam. Communication of any nature during exams is considered unacceptable and will result in automatic point deductions. I may also choose to lower your course grade to "F" in accordance with the guidelines contained in the Students Rights and Responsibilities Handbook (ASPCC).

ATTENDANCE: Regular attendance is virtually essential to academic success and is required by college regulations. Please see me if you have any attendance. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what work was done in class, what assignments were made, and to learn the material

WITHDRAWALS: If withdrawal from the course becomes necessary for any reason, it is the responsibility of the student to officially withdraw through the Business Office. An automatic grade of "W" will be assigned if you withdraw prior to the official drop date. Students who stop attending and do not withdraw will receive a letter grade.

TROUBLE?: I am interested in helping you learn, so please feel free to talk to me after class, during office hours, or to make an appointment. I, and the rest of the staff at PCC, really do care about you as an individual and we want you to succeed.

ADA STATEMENT: If you require specific instructional accommodations, please notify me early in the quarter. The Office for Students with Disabilities can be reached at 503-977-4341.

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WEEK	SUBJECT	CHAPTER
1	Botany Basics	1
2 (No class Thurs.)	Soils and Fertilizers	2 and Primer
3	Soils and Fertilizers	2 and Primer
4	Plant Propagation/Pruning	3, 4
5	Composting/Water	5, 6
6	Midterm Vegetables	7, Handout
7	Insects	14 and Guidebook
8	Plant Diseases	15/16/Guidebook
9	Home Orchards	10
10	Management of Problems/Biotech	20, Handouts
11	Final Exam – Tuesday 1 PM in 7/103	

* Assignment/exam calendars may be changed in response to institutional, weather, and/or class problems.

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WEEK	SUBJECT	CHAPTER
1	Botany Basics/Learning Garden/Research	Handout
2	No lab (No class 4/12/07)	
3	Lifecycles	Handout
4	NPK Analysis/Soils	Handout
5	Infiltration/Soils	Handout
6	Plant Diseases/Pruning/Field Trip	Handout
7	Composting/Worms Field Trip	Handout
8	Insects	Handout
9	Microclimates	Handout
10	Student Presentations on Research/Service Learning Components – write-ups due.	