

## Special Problems in Plant Science

11:776:495: Fall Semester (yearly)  
11:776:496: Spring or Summer Semesters (yearly)  
By arrangement (1 to 12 credits)

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Office Hours: by arrangement

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

In *Special Problems in Plant Science*, students participate in out-of-classroom or extra-curricular activities that combine technical knowledge of the plant science disciplines with practical skill development in the laboratory, greenhouse, or field.

Students enroll in *Special Problems* to receive credit for the Experienced-based Education requirement for the Plant Science major. *Special Problems* may also be used to satisfy one 3-credit elective for the Plant Science major or minor. In general, 3 credits are satisfied by approximately 150 hours of activity or preparation.

### PREREQUISITE

Permission of instructor AND special problems adviser

### COURSE LEARNING GOALS

(Link to Plant Biology Undergraduate Program Goals: <http://plantbiology.rutgers.edu/undergrad/plantbiology/>)

The goal of *Special Problems* is to demonstrate proficiency of program learning goals. By the end of this course, the student will:

- Course goal 1: Demonstrate basic knowledge about one or more plant science disciplines (including, but not limited to fields in sustainable agriculture, plant breeding and genetics, plant protection, and natural products and human health (addresses program goal 1)
- Course goal 2: Place the experience within the broader context of the role of plants in agriculture, society, or the environment (addresses program goal 2)
- Course goal 3: Demonstrate critical thinking or problem solving ability (addresses program goal 4)
- Course goal 4: Communicate (in written or oral forms) the technical and problem solving skills gained by the experience, as well as a discussion of larger environmental, societal, or agricultural context and take-home messages (addresses program goal 3)

### ASSIGNMENTS/RESPONSIBILITIES AND ASSESSMENT

**Learning goals assessment.** The nature of the assessment is flexible based on the nature of the special problems experience. Structure of the experience and means of assessment must be agreed upon by the instructor, supervisor, or special problems advisor with the student before the student begins work. The assessment tool(s) must address all course learning goals (technical skills, context, critical thinking, and ability to communicate what the student has learned).

Examples of assessment tools are:

- Writing efforts (term paper, research report, draft of a journal article, annotated laboratory notebook, etc.)
- Oral presentations (PowerPoint, field demonstration, etc.)

- Advisor evaluation of technical proficiency
- Oral or written exams or quizzes administered by the supervisor to test for depth of knowledge and communication skills

The percentage score on these assessments will determine the level of mastery: >90% outstanding; 80-89% good; 70-70% satisfactory; <69% unsatisfactory.

It is the responsibility of the student to independently arrange for undergraduate research or other work experiences. Students should work in areas that interest them.

## **PARTICIPATION AND ABSENCE POLICY**

Students are expected to participate in special problems projects to the satisfaction of the supervisor or instructor. Unexcused absences or tardiness will affect the student's grade. When working outside the classroom, academic responsibility (initiative, independence, and preparation), professionalism, courtesy, promptness, and willingness to follow directions are key. In general, 3 credits are satisfied by approximately 150 hours of activity or preparation.

## **ACCOMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Please follow the procedures outlined at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>. Full policies and procedures are at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

The university's policy on Academic Integrity is available at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

The principles of academic integrity require that a student:

- Properly acknowledge and cite all use of the ideas, results, or words of others.
- Properly acknowledge all contributors to a given piece of work.
- Make sure that all work submitted as his or her own in a course or other academic activity is produced without the aid of impermissible materials or impermissible collaboration.
- Obtain all data or results by ethical means and report them accurately without suppressing any results inconsistent with his or her interpretation or conclusions.
- Treat all other students in an ethical manner, respecting their integrity and right to pursue their educational goals without interference. This requires that a student neither facilitate academic dishonesty by others nor obstruct their academic progress.
- Uphold the canons of the ethical or professional code of the profession for which he or she is preparing.

Adherence to these principles is necessary in order to ensure that:

- Everyone is given proper credit for his or her ideas, words, results, and other scholarly accomplishments.
- All student work is fairly evaluated and no student has an inappropriate advantage over others.
- The academic and ethical development of all students is fostered.
- The reputation of the University for integrity in its teaching, research, and scholarship is maintained and enhanced.

Failure to uphold these principles of academic integrity threatens both the reputation of the University and the value of the degrees awarded to its students. Every member of the University community therefore bears a responsibility for ensuring that the highest standards of academic integrity are upheld.

## **STUDENT WELLNESS SERVICES**

**Just In Case Web App** <http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

**Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)**

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / [www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/](http://www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/)

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

**Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)**

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / [www.vpva.rutgers.edu/](http://www.vpva.rutgers.edu/)

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

**Disability Services**

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

**Scarlet Listeners**

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.