

BIOL-21 Mushrooms of the North Coast

Course Information

- Semester and Year: Fall 2025
- Course ID and Section number: BIOL-21 D9475
- Instructor's name: Laura Morgan
- Day and time of required meetings: Lecture Mon/Wed 5:40 PM - 6:40 PM & Lab Sat 9:00 AM - 12:10 PM
- Location: Del Norte Campus Room 23
- Course units: 3

Instructor Contact Information

- Office location or Online: Online
- Office hours: As needed
- Phone number: 707-954-6994
- Email address: laura-morgan@redwoods.edu
- Other method: Pronto

Required Materials:

- Textbook: Mushrooms of the Redwood Coast: A Comprehensive Guide to the Fungi of Coastal Northern California by Noah Siegel, Christian Schwarz ISBN-10 : 1607748177 ; ISBN-13 : 978-1607748175
- Notebook: A notebook dedicated to this class, which you will turn in for a grade at the end of the semester. Unlined is preferred

Catalog Description

The study of the identification and ecology of fungi. Emphasis placed on understanding ecological roles, keying species to genus and on field identification of the more common edible and toxic species of the North Coast. Note: Field trips are required and transportation is not provided.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

- Identify common species of mushrooms on sight and use a dichotomous key to identify rare or unknown species.
- Analyze the different ecological roles of fungi and fungus-like organisms in various habitats and environments.
- Construct a phylogeny for major taxonomic groups in Kingdom Fungi and other fungus-like organisms using morphological features, life history traits, and/or genetic sequences.

Course Calendar

Lectures Monday & Wednesday 5:340 pm - 6:40 pm in DM23

Labs Saturday 9:00 am - 12:10 pm - locations TBD

Evaluation and Grading Policy

Attendance and participation is the most important part of this class. Assignments, quizzes, and exams will either be submitted online through Canvas or take place in the field. Field quizzes may occur during any Saturday field trip. Students will keep and submit notebooks, which are a significant portion of the final grade. Instructions for keeping a good notebook and the lab notebook grading rubric are available on Canvas. Good participation and attendance will be necessary for a good notebook. Students must complete all assignments on time to receive full credit. Students should study lecture slides, quizzes, and their lab notes for exams.

Grading breakdown is as follows:

Participation 20 %

Quizzes 20 %

Midterm 15 %

Final 15 %

Lab Notebook 30%

Prerequisites/corequisites/ recommended preparation

Recommended: BIOL1 - General Biology

Previous experience reading cladograms and/or dichotomous keys will be very helpful for students in this course. Some understanding of the process of evolution, community ecology, and genetics would also be helpful.

Educational Accessibility and Support

College of the Redwoods is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for qualified students who could benefit from additional educational support and services. You may qualify if you have a physical, mental, sensory, or intellectual condition which causes you to struggle academically, including but not limited to:

- Mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, PTSD, or bipolar disorder

- Common ailments such as arthritis, asthma, diabetes, autoimmune disorders, and diseases
- Temporary impairments such as a broken bone, recovery from significant surgery, or a pregnancy-related disability
- Neurodevelopmental disorders such as a learning disability, intellectual disability, autism, acquired brain injury, or ADHD
- Vision, hearing, or mobility conditions

Available services include extended test time, quiet testing environments, academic assistance and tutoring through the [LIGHT Center](#), counseling and advising, alternate formats of course materials (e.g., audio books, braille, E-texts), assistive technology, learning disability assessments, approval for personal attendants, interpreters, priority registration, on-campus transportation, adaptive physical education and living skills courses, and more. If you believe you might benefit from disability- or health-related services and accommodations, please contact [Student Accessibility Support Services \(SASS\)](#). If you are unsure whether you qualify, please contact Student Accessibility Support Services (SASS) for a consultation: sass@redwoods.edu.

SASS office locations and phone numbers

Eureka campus

- Phone: 707-476-4280
- Location: Learning Resource Center (Library)

Del Norte campus

- Phone: 707-465-2353
- Location: main building, near the Library

Klamath-Trinity campus

- Phone: 707-476-4280