DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY AND MICROBIOLOGY

Our mission is to conduct leading edge research on plant diseases and plant-microbe interactions that directly and indirectly impact: Our ability to feed the world; Human and animal health; Environmental stewardship and sustainability. Educate and prepare leaders in the STEM fields of plant and environmental health through a creative and challenging educational environment that integrates scholarship, fundamental knowledge, and experiential learning. Convey information relevant to society through effective outreach and services that address plant health, food safety and environmental health to the citizens of Texas, the United States and the World.

An extension of this mission is to train the next generation of environmental professionals by providing them both the analytical and biological understanding to successfully protect the environment while promoting economic vitality.

Faculty
Dickman, Martin B, Professor
Plant Pathology & Microbiology
PHD, University of Hawaii, 1986

Ebbole, Daniel J, Professor
Plant Pathology & Microbiology
PHD, Purdue University, 1988

Gonzalez, Carlos F, Professor
Plant Pathology & Microbiology
PHD, University of Nebraska, 1978

Gross, Dennis C, Professor
Plant Pathology & Microbiology
PHD, University of California, Davis, 1976

Ireland-Stoddard, Kati L, Instructional Assistant Professor
Plant Pathology & Microbiology
PHD, University of North Texas, 2012

Kenerley, Charles M, Professor
Plant Pathology & Microbiology
PHD, North Carolina State University, 1983

Kolomietis, Mikhailo V, Professor
Plant Pathology & Microbiology
PHD, Iowa State University, 1998

Magill, Clint W, Professor
Plant Pathology & Microbiology
PHD, Cornell University, 1969

Pierson, Leland S, Professor
Plant Pathology & Microbiology
PHD, Washington State University, 1986

Scholthof, Herman B, Professor
Plant Pathology & Microbiology
PHD, University of Kentucky, 1990

Scholthof, Karenbeth G, Professor
Plant Pathology & Microbiology
PHD, University of Kentucky, 1989

Shan, Libo, Professor
Plant Pathology & Microbiology
PHD, Kansas State University, 2003

Shaw, Brian D, Professor
Plant Pathology & Microbiology
PHD, Cornell University, 2000

Shim, Won-Bo, Professor
Plant Pathology & Microbiology
PHD, Purdue University, 2000

Wilkinson, Heather H, Professor
Plant Pathology & Microbiology
PHD, State University of New York at Binghamton, 1996

Yuan, Shuhua, Professor
Plant Pathology & Microbiology
PHD, University of Tennessee, 2007

Majors

• Bachelor of Science in Bioenvironmental Sciences (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/agriculture-life-sciences/plant-pathology-microbiology/bioenvironmental-sciences-bs)

• Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/agriculture-life-sciences/plant-pathology-microbiology/environmental-studies-bs)

• Bachelor of Science in University Studies, Environmental Business Concentration (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/agriculture-life-sciences/plant-pathology-microbiology/environmental-business-university-studies-bs)

Minors


Courses

• Bioenvironmental Sciences (BESC) (p. 1)

• Plant Pathology (PLPA) (p. 3)

Bioenvironmental Sciences (p. 1)

BESC 201 Introduction to Bioenvironmental Sciences
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
A broad survey of environmental science with an emphasis on scientific literacy, current events, global and international issues and historic context.

BESC 204 Molds and Mushrooms: The Impact of Fungi on Society and the Environment
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Introduction to the fungi and the impact these organisms have on society and the environment; includes life cycles of fungi; classification schemes, pathogens of plants, animals and humans, fungi in food production; toxic fungi and the law, and others.
BESC 285 Directed Studies  
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Other Hours.  
Individually supervised research or advanced studies for lower-division undergraduate students to independently investigate special problems not available in existing courses.  
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor in consultation with departmental advisor.

BESC 291 Research  
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Other Hours.  
Research conducted under the direction of faculty member in bioenvironmental sciences. May be repeated 3 times for credit.  
Prerequisites: Freshman or sophomore classification and approval of instructor.

BESC 311 International Perspectives on Environmental Issues  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Role of the United Nations and other institutions that promote international cooperation toward sustainable development goals; influence of cultural views on critical thinking about environmental issues, including population, water and agriculture, biodiversity and energy.  
Prerequisite: Junior classification or approval of instructor; must attend two mandatory pre-departure meetings.

BESC 314 Pathogens, the Environment and Society  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
The impact of microorganisms (bacteria, fungi and viruses) on the development of modern culture and society; the role pathogens played in the history of mankind and the influence of the changing environment on emerging diseases.  
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification.

BESC 320 Water and the Bioenvironmental Sciences  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Critical understanding of salient issues relating to fresh water as a limited and important bioenvironmental resource.  
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification.

BESC 357 Biotechnology for Biofuels and Bioproducts  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Biotechnology issues in developing bioenergy as a renewable energy source; emphasis on the three generations of bioenergy and enabling technologies; special topics include recent advances in bioenergy research, government policy, and industrial development.  
Prerequisite: BESC 201 and junior or senior classification.

BESC 367 U.S. Environmental Regulations  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Investigation of the legal infrastructure of the U.S. associated with regulating environmental impacts; examination of major U.S. environmental statutes associated with air and water quality, toxic substances, waste and hazardous substance release, energy and natural resources; review the relationship between U.S. policy and international environmental regulations.  
Prerequisites: BESC 201 and junior or senior classification.

BESC 401 Bioenvironmental Microbiology  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
The interactions of microorganism in diverse environments; applied aspects of microbial interactions in the environment, their effects on the environment, and potential use to solve environmental problems.  
Prerequisites: SCSC 405 and 3 hours of organic chemistry, or equivalents; or approval of instructor.

BESC 402 Microbial Processes in Bioremediation  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Metabolic pathways of microbes involved in the biodegradation of hazardous materials will be presented; ecological requirements for biotreatability of contaminated sites will be discussed emphasizing factors affecting microbial growth; strategies for in situ bioaugmentation will be presented.  
Prerequisite: One semester of organic chemistry.

BESC 403 Sampling and Environmental Monitoring  
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.  
Introduction to environmental sampling and methodology; strategies and analyses of sampling data; overview of current applications of sampling and monitoring in the environmental sciences; emphasis on practical aspects of sampling from air, soil and water; detection and quantification of microbial and chemical unknowns in environmental media.  
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

BESC 411 Environmental Health and Safety Compliance  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours. 1 Lab Hour.  
Investigation of various Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) practices necessary for compliance with state and federal regulations; reinforcement of real-world understanding; tour several regulated facilities on campus and learn about the particular TAMU-EHS compliance management strategies for each (utilities, underground storage tanks, wastewater treatment and hazardous waste facility).  
Prerequisite: BESC 367 or similar regulation intensive course and approval of instructor.

BESC 481 Seminar  
Credit 1. 1 Lecture Hour.  
Capstone course for topics in bioenvironmental sciences; critical analysis of environmental issues through written themes and presentations. May be taken three times for credit.  
Prerequisites: BESC 201 and senior classification in BESC major.

BESC 484 Field Experience  
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Other Hours.  
An on-the-job supervised experience program conducted in the area of the student’s specialization.  
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of department head.

BESC 485 Directed Studies  
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Other Hours.  
Special problems for advanced undergraduates to permit study of subject matter not available in existing courses.  
Prerequisite: BESC 201 or approval of instructor.

BESC 489 Special Topics in...  
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Lecture Hours. 1 to 4 Lab Hours.  
Selected topics in an identified area of bioenvironmental sciences. May be repeated for credit.  
Prerequisite: BESC 201 or approval of instructor.

BESC 491 Research  
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Other Hours.  
Research conducted under the direction of faculty member in bioenvironmental sciences. May be repeated 3 times for credit. Registration in multiple sections of this course are possible within a given semester provided that the per semester credit hour limit is not exceeded.  
Prerequisites: Junior or senior classification and approval of instructor.
Plant Pathology

PLPA 291 Research
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Other Hours.
Research conducted under the direction of faculty member in plant pathology. May be repeated 3 times for credit.
Prerequisites: Freshman or sophomore classification and approval of instructor.

PLPA 301 Plant Pathology
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Introduction to fundamental principles of plant pathology; diagnosis, cause and control of plant diseases.
Prerequisites: BIOL 113 or BIOL 101; concurrent registration in PLPA 303.

PLPA 303 Plant Pathology Laboratory
Credit 1. 2 Lab Hours.
Isolation, identification of plant pathogens and clinical diagnosis and control of plant diseases.
Prerequisite: PLPA 301 or registration therein.

PLPA 334 Turfgrass Pathology
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Recognizing turfgrass problems and understanding biological mechanisms in the disease process; principles of disease management strategies.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification.

PLPA 485 Directed Studies
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Other Hours.
Special problems for advanced undergraduates to permit study of subject matter not available in existing courses.
Prerequisites: PLPA 301 and prior approval of instructor or department head.

PLPA 489 Special Topics in...
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Lecture Hours.
Selected topics in an identified area of plant pathology. May be repeated for credit.
Prerequisite: PLPA 301 or approval of instructor.

PLPA 491 Research
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Other Hours.
Research conducted under the direction of faculty member in plant pathology. May be repeated 3 times for credit. Registration in multiple sections of this course are possible within a given semester provided that the per semester credit hour limit is not exceeded.
Prerequisites: Junior or senior classification and approval of instructor.