**Pet Plant Project – Fall 2021**

**This project is worth 200 points towards your total grade**. Your objective is to grow a baby plant to maturity, learning about plant development, morphology, and physiology along the way. You will be provided with materials during your first laboratory class (seeds, soil, pots, fertilizer) to begin the project. You will not know what type of seeds you have – your job will be to watch your plant carefully as it grows and then identify it based on a list of possible seeds given to the class.

**Requirements**:

1. **50 points. You must keep your plant alive until it reaches maturity.** It is up to you to determine the best way to do that. You will receive 5 seeds for the entire semester. Your plant requires some essential things to survive (light, warm temperatures, water, etc.); provide these to sustain it over the semester. Your plant may (or may not) flower or make fruit during the semester. Flowering and/or fruiting is great, but not a requirement! If it produces flowers or fruits and then dies, this is considered a full life cycle and we would say it died of “natural causes.” If your plant dies for any other reason, you must use another one of your seeds and try again. You will not lose points if your plant dies, as long as you keep trying (and document/learn from your mistakes!). However, 5 seeds is the max -- you run out, you will not receive any more.
2. **50 points. Make frequent observations in your journal.** Follow the guidelines below to ensure you receive full credit at the end of the semester.
   1. You are expected to make a minimum of **two observations per week** beginning the week you receive your plant, but feel free to record more as necessary. This should equate to **15** observations over the course of the semester, including holidays.Plant parents never get a break!
   2. You must take **photos** for each observation. **You may not draw your plant**.
   3. You will be complete a digital journal entry via Google forms. Here is the link: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1d7xK8swtGZxE3-hSUC1FSlbPkaKJItbxZ_hw4Kahr_o>

Once you submit the journal entry, you will receive an email with a formatted PDF journal entry a few minutes later. **Save these PDFs** and at the end of the semester, you will combine all the PDFs into a single file for grading via iLearn.

* 1. Each week, you should record any changes you make to its environment (e.g., did you increase the amount of water or light? did you fertilize it?) and your reason for doing so (for example, the plant was wilting, research suggested the plant needed more nitrogen, etc.). Record features that you notice (new leaves, buds, flowers, sickness, insect damage, etc.).
  2. **In grading,** **we want to see that** **you actively tried to relate information from lecture to your pet plant**. How did the material each week help you better understand your plant? This is an important aspect of the project.
  3. Continue making observations until the day you turn in your assignment.

1. **50 points. Getting to know... your plant!** For this part of the project, you will introduce us (your classmates and your instructors) to your plant. Tell us about him or her! We want to know all about your plant and the special bond you share. We also want to know what you have learned as a result of this project. You should be as creative as possible – anything goes! **However, in order to receive full credit, you must include the following in a SINGLE product you will turn in:**
   1. In addition to your plant’s personal name, you must include the scientific name of your species and the plant family it belongs to. **Hint**: All families of plants end in “–aceae.”
   2. Tell the story of your relationship. What were the ups and downs? What aspects would you change if you could do it again?
   3. How has your view of plants changed as a result of taking care of your pet plant? Do you want to grow more plants in the future?

Make it as entertaining as possible! You can make a video, write a song, create an artistic piece, write a story, perform a dance… anything you want that fully describes what you have learned from this project. Whatever you do, **do NOT make a PowerPoint…** No matter what you decide, it should be in a format that is easy for us to grade. We will create an assignment on iLearn to upload your project for grading, but the total size is 30 MB for files. You can also turn in assignments (writing, drawings, etc.) in person during the last lab. Videos can be shared as links on YouTube or uploaded to iLearn and shared with Dr. K.

**PPP Grading Rubric Name: Lab Day/Time:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Requirement** | **Grading Breakdown** | **Possible Points** | **Earned** |
| **Is your plant alive?** | 1. Yes, and you brought it to class to show everyone what an awesome job you did!   OR:  NO, it died of natural causes and you clearly documented this in your journal, and you received TA approval not to grow another.  NO, it died, but you asked your TA and they said that it was too close to the end of the semester to try again | 50 | / 50 |
| 1. No – you gave up and stopped trying ☹ | variable |
| **Journal of your plant’s growth and development** | 1. You met the minimum 1x per week requirement = 15 entries | 15 | / 50 |
| 1. You included photos with EVERY journal entry (not hand drawings) | 5 |
| 1. You noted changes in health, size, new tissue/organ development, environmental conditions | 10 |
| 1. **Most important: you related your observations at home to material covered in lecture and lab** | 20 |
| **Creative portion** | 1. Did you introduce your plant and include its scientific name (both species and family name)? | 10 | / 50 |
| 1. Did you tell the story of your relationship with your plant? | 12.5 |
| 1. Did you provide details about how the PPP has affected your opinion of plants, now and for the future? | 12.5 |
| 1. Were you creative in your interpretation of this aspect of the assignment? | 15 |
| **Total Points Earned (200):** | | |  |
| **Comments:** | | | |