Biology of Fungi

PBIO 2770 – Summer, 2026

Dr. Terry Delaney (4 credits)







What you can expect in PBIO 2770

1) Collect and identify mushrooms and other macrofungi through examining field characters, laboratory study of macro- and microscopic traits, and other features. Through lecture and discussion, we will explore fungal genetics, ecology, evolution, and uses. We will enjoy extensive use of microscopes and related techniques.

2) Survey the major fungal groups, with emphasis on basidiomycetes (mushrooms and their kin) and ascomycetes (e.g. morels, cup fungi).

3) Recognize mushrooms that are sought as choice edibles, as well as those which are poisonous, or even deadly poisonous.

4) Learn the unique and shared features of each group, including biology, form, and reproductive strategies. Discuss key ecological roles played by fungi, as decomposers, mutualist symbionts, and as pathogens.

5) Highlight species that have impacted human health, demographics, and culture! Discuss fungi cultivation.

Time: May 18-June 12, Mondays-Thursdays, 8:50 AM-12:50 PM, 100 Jeffords Hall.

Open to UVM and other students, as well as to non-student learners.

(Also approved as a UVM Food Systems elective!)

UVM Summer University: http://www.uvm.edu/~summer/







