

Sporetacular Origins: Intro to Mycology
Syllabus
Summer HSSP 2020

Instructors

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Course Objectives

The intention of this course is for students to gain an appreciation and understanding of the kingdom Fungi. Students will learn about basic fungal biology, history, classification, and diversity. Students will learn how different fungi are interconnected with each other and how they relate to our lives at large.

Website

Course lectures, documents, and assignments will be posted here:
https://esp.mit.edu/learn/HSSP/2020_Summer/class_docs/14009

Lectures

Lectures will be held each Saturday from July 11 to August 15 via Zoom. Classes run from 4:00pm – 5:00 pm EST. Although lectures cannot be recorded, any associated notes and slides will be posted before lecture.

Weekly Schedule

A brief overview of what we will cover during the course:

- Week 1 – Introduction, Fungal Biology
- Week 2 – Fungal Evolution and Origins
- Week 3 – Fungal Types and Classifications I
- Week 4 – Fungal Types and Classifications II
- Week 5 – Fungi in the Environment
- Week 6 – Fungus Hunt

Grades and Assignments

No assignments or coursework are graded but are strongly encouraged. Assignments in this class include in-class activities and a virtual fungus hunt.

In-Class Activities

Students will participate in written and verbal activities in class in groups to reinforce lecture topics.

Virtual Fungus Hunt

Students will participate in a virtual fungus hunt to simulate exploration in local New England wilderness areas. Using the knowledge learned in the course, students will identify different species of fungi and be able to look at specimens closely in their “natural” environment, showing how they interact with their surroundings.