

LOCAL FLORA OF NORTH FLORIDA, SUMMER A 2018

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BOT3151C 014D&G
Classroom: 222 Carr Hall
Meeting times: T,R 8:00am-1:45pm

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Welcome to *Local Flora of North Florida*! In this course, you will learn about the vascular plants of our area, with a focus on field identification of important plant species and families, as well as developing our skills to describe these plants and their features using scientific terms and nomenclature. We will also discuss how different plant species fit into the local landscape so that we all can better understand the exceptional ecological diversity of North Florida through a botanical lens. We will spend some time indoors, but a significant portion of this course will be spent with the plants in their native habitats.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Learn and understand the basic form of vascular plants
- 2) Develop skills to identify plants, with and without a technical key
- 3) Identification of plant species and families found in northern Florida
- 4) Recognition of important plant species that serve as habitat indicators
- 5) Have fun!

CLASS MEETING TIME: Tuesday and Thursday 8:00am-1:45pm. **Always meet at 222 Carr** at the beginning of lab, unless instructed otherwise. It is important to be on time – we have limited time at each site and will leave on time, without exception. If you need to miss lab for truly extenuating circumstances please let me know beforehand so I know not to expect you. Attendance is mandatory.

WEATHER, ETC. As you have already noted, sessions in this course will be long (>5 hours) and many will be outdoors. Please bring a field lunch (we will have lunch breaks!) as well as water, and please dress appropriately for the conditions. This is Florida in the summer – you may want to bring insect repellent!

RECOMMENDED/REQUIRED MATERIALS FOR LAB: **Bring the following items to lab each week.**

10× hand lens (required, available at UF bookstore or online)

Field notebook & pencil (required)

Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida, Wunderlin & Hansen (recommended – important resource)

Tape (optional - helpful to have along if you want to tape samples into your field journal)

FIELD NOTEBOOK: You will need to keep a field notebook for this lab, which will be collected once and graded. Your field notebook should contain detailed notes on each of the OCPs (official course plants) and OCFs (official course families) that we learn in lab. You may want to purchase a “Write-in-the-Rain” notebook to use as your field notebook—if it rains, you’ll find that regular paper gets ruined quickly.

GRADING: Your course grade consists of 100 points total, broken down as follows:

Eight 5pt quizzes	40pts	Quizzes will cover Official Course Plants and Official Course Families, plus Plant structures, terms, etc.
Notebook	15pts	Take careful, thorough notes and draw a picture of each OCP.
Keying workshop	15pts	Group in-class exercise identifying plants using technical keys and writing your own!
Course final	20pts	Plant ID, basic morphology
Participation	10pts	Ask questions, contribute knowledge, get involved.

Quizzes: These quizzes are to test your knowledge of the plants that we have studied. Check the course schedule for when these will be given. You will be given freshly collected specimens or live plants in the field and asked to identify them. These quizzes are designed to be short and are cumulative, though they will focus principally on the species covered in the previous week's class. Only Latin names will be accepted as correct answers – unless state otherwise, provide the entire name (Genus and specific epithet). 2 points will be awarded for correctly stating the genus, 3 points for the genus and specific epithet.

Notebook: Notebooks will be collected in class and graded during our keying workshop, near the end of the semester (see schedule). We will evaluate your notebook and return it to you during that same class period. We will be checking that you have included all taxa studied during the class, including detail entries including the name of the species and descriptions of them (see next page for an example).

Keying workshop: During one of our last course meetings, we will meet in the classroom and work in groups using technical keys to identify unknown plants. In addition, you will be asked to work in the same groups to write working keys for other unknown plants. You will be graded on your group's ability to correctly identify species using the provided keys, as well as the utility of the keys that you develop.

Course final: The course will conclude with a "lab practical" style final, where you will be asked to display the knowledge that you developed during the course. You may be asked to recognize plants that we have seen during the course, use a key to identify unknown plants, describe basic morphological features, etc. As with the quizzes, only Latin binomials will be accepted.

Participation: Participation is critical to learning the material in this class. Attendance is mandatory: quizzes and other activities cannot be made up. In addition to showing up, you will be expected to participate, share knowledge, and pay attention. Phone use is not permitted during class! (If you have an important call to make, let us know.)

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY: All students registered at the University of Florida have agreed to comply with the following statement: “I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.” If you witness any instances of academic dishonesty in this class, please notify the instructor or contact the Student Honor Court (392-1631) or Cheating Hotline (392-6999). For additional information on Academic Honesty, please refer to the University of Florida Academic Honesty Guidelines at: <https://archive.catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/1617//advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx>

UNIVERSITY GRADE POLICIES: For additional important information regarding UF’s grade policies, please see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. This office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

SOME ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

<http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu/> - Florida Plant Atlas - a good resource for photographs and range maps of Florida plants.

<http://www.fnai.org/> - Florida Native Areas Inventory - a great source of data, maps and info on plant communities, rare species and conservation lands in Florida.

<https://www.feis-crs.org/feis/> – USDA Forest Service Fire Effects Data - lots of general information about fire effects on species we cover in class. Easy to look up.

<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/herbarium/> - University of Florida Herbarium - all kinds of info on Florida plants and collecting, including a database of images and specimens stored in the herbarium.

<http://www.virtualherbarium.org/> - Fairchild Tropical Garden Herbarium Virtual Herbarium.

SAMPLE NOTEBOOK ENTRY:

5/18/2018

San Felasco SP, Gainesville, FL

Ilex vomitoria–Yaupon Holly (underline Latin binomials when handwriting)

Aquifoliaceae-Holly Family

Vegetative Characters:

Habit: woody shrub or small tree, 4-8m tall.

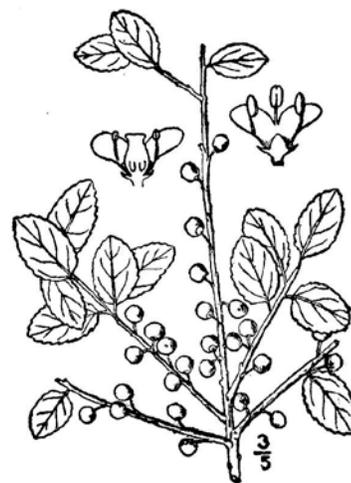
Leaves alternate and simple, coarsely toothed, elliptic.

Reproductive Characters:

Flower: white, radially symmetrical, small. Four sepals, four petals.

Fruit: red berry.

Habitat: Sandhills, hardwood hammocks, coastal habitats.



COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic/Location	Focus	Other
Tue 05/15	Lab, 222 Carr	Introduction to plant morphology	General orientation to course
Thur 05/17	UF Campus	Identifying plants in the field, common plants of North Florida	Review plant morphology, Quiz 1
Tue 05/22	UF Campus	Trees of North Florida	Quiz 2
Thur 05/24	Lake Alice	Disturbance colonizers and mesic forest	Quiz 3
Tue 05/29	Lab, 222 Carr	Ferns of Florida	Quiz 4
Thur 05/31	San Felasco SP	Upland hardwood forest	Practice keying, Quiz 5
Tue 06/05	Starting at 222 Carr	Urban botany: plants of Gainesville!	Exotic & invasive species, Quiz 6
Thur 06/07	Cedar Key	Coastal plants, sand pine scrub	Look at pelicans
Tue 06/12	Sweetwater Wetlands Park	Freshwater marsh	Quiz 7
Thur 06/14	Lab, 222 Carr	Keying exercise	Notebook check, Quiz 8
Tue 06/19	Gold Head Branch SP	Sandhills, mesic hardwood forest	Study for course final!
Thur 06/21	Lab, 222 Carr	Course final	

COURSE iNATURALIST PAGE:

We will be maintaining a list of species studied in this course on the iNaturalist website, which is a popular citizen science webpage. This list will include photos of the plants we see (we'll take them in the field!) as well as their identifications. This will be an important resource for studying for quizzes and the course final.

You can access this page here: <https://www.inaturalist.org/lists/1109731-Local-Flora-of-North-Florida---BOT3151-Summer-A-2018>