

## Local Flora - BOT 3151C (3 credits) – Spring 2021

Meeting times: Fridays

Periods 3 - 6 (9:35 AM - 1:40 PM)

### Instructors:

Dr. Christine Davis (she/her)

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Office hours: By appointment

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### Description:

Local flora is a fun, field intensive course in which you'll be introduced to local Florida plant communities and ecosystems and learn to identify the plants within them. The course has no official academic prerequisites, so students may come to the class having had no previous botany background. Local flora requires students to master some basic botanical concepts in order to do well. If you are a beginner, don't worry! All the botany you need to know will be taught as we go along. If you are more advanced, you will still find the course challenging. We make every effort to make the course valuable to everyone.

### Learning outcomes: by the end of this course, you will be able to:

- 1) Identify ~70 species of local plants using morphological and habitat clues.
- 2) Develop a systematic approach to identifying an unknown plant using knowledge about plant diversity, habitat, and vegetative morphology.
- 3) Discuss and describe connections between plant species and the local ecosystems in which they are found.

### Required equipment:

A 10x or 15x hand lens (available at UF Bookstore or online sources)

A pair of pruning shears (available at hardware and gardening stores)

### Optional recommended book and app:

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. 2018. *FloraQuest 2*. [Mobile application software.]

Wunderlin, R. P. and Hansen, B.F. 2011. *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida*, 3rd Edition. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.

### Your course grades will be determined based on:

1) 3 field trip quizzes @ 60 pts each	180 points
2) 3 Canvas quizzes @ 10 pts each	30
3) Plant communities quiz	60
4) 1 site brochure	<u>60</u>
	330 points

### Description of the components of your grade:

**1) Field trip quizzes.** These quizzes test your knowledge of the plant species we've learned on field trips. For each quiz, you will be asked to find examples of 20 of these species we've learned. Quizzes will be given at a field site. We'll assign teams of 2 to venture off to work together, and each team of two will be randomly assigned 20 species to find together. Each student will hand in their own set of 20 specimens assigned and will be given an individual grade. Students will not be permitted to use notes or electronic devices to complete the quiz.

*Each field trip quiz is cumulative. Only Latin binomial plant names will be accepted: Correct genus name = 2 pts. Correct species (genus name plus specific epithet) = 3pts. No credit will be given for common names.*

**2) Canvas quizzes.** These quizzes will require students to identify species of plants from photographs. Each quiz will include all species from the field trip immediately preceding the asynchronous Canvas quiz.

*Only Latin binomial plant names will be accepted. The correct species (genus name plus specific epithet) name must be given for full credit. No credit will be given for common names.*

**3) Plant communities quiz.** At each field trip, we will discuss characteristics of the communities we encounter. We expect students to record notes about these community types. The plant communities quiz will focus on applying what you've learned about plant species and the community types in which they are found.

**4) Site brochure.** This assignment will give students the opportunity to creatively apply what they learned throughout the semester about plant communities and the species in them. Students will create an attractive, informative park sign or brochure that could be used at one of the sites we visit, describing a particular plant community and highlighting a key species within it.

#### Field trips:

We will take four-five field trips to visit several different types of plant communities. We will study the local plant life right in the places where the plants grow, and you will learn basic techniques of field botany. On these field trips, you'll collect and learn to identify the plants upon which you'll be quizzed and observe the characteristics of their communities. You'll have a lot of fun seeing other creatures, too.

*Bring to the field trips: clippers, bags for collecting plants, clipboard or notebook, water to drink, and snacks/lunch. (Cameras can be very helpful, too.)*

*Dress appropriately. Wear long pants and old shoes. Sandals are not recommended. Be prepared for normal Florida conditions (i.e. heat, sun, mosquitoes, poison ivy, rattlesnakes, ticks, rain, alligators, etc.) and expect sometimes to get your feet wet. Field trips will not be cancelled due to weather.*

*Specimen collection* – On our field trips, each student will be encouraged to collect a small specimen of each plant species we cover for the course. You will be shown how to press and dry your specimens so that they will remain in good condition for the duration of the semester. These specimens will be your most important study aid. You should bring clippers or scissors and a bag for specimens (a plastic grocery bag will do) with you on every field trip. Masking tape for labeling plant specimens may also be useful.

#### Make up policy:

Due to the unique constraints of a field course, field trips and field trip quizzes **CANNOT** be made up, but alternative arrangements to earn course credit can be arranged in instances of legitimately documented excused absences. Canvas quizzes can be made up in instances of legitimately documented excused absences.

#### **University policies and resources**

#### COVID

In response to COVID-19, the following practices are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment:

<https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.

You are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated. Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Following these practices is our responsibility as Gators.

Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.

Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom.

If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email [covid@shcc.ufl.edu](mailto:covid@shcc.ufl.edu)) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website for more information.

Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.

If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.

Continue to regularly visit [coronavirus.UFHealth.org](https://coronavirus.UFHealth.org) and [coronavirus.ufl.edu](https://coronavirus.ufl.edu) for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.

#### Attendance and make-ups

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms ([click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus](#)), please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. [Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms](#). Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. Refer to the above link for more information on the university's attendance policy.

### In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student

### Accommodations

Students who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

### Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at [gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/](http://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via [ufl.bluera.com/ufl/](http://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at [gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/](http://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/).

### Academic Integrity

“UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct->

honorcode/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

### Resources Available to Students

#### ***Health and Wellness***

- *U Matter, We Care*: [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu); 392-1575
- *Counseling and Wellness Center*: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>; 392-1575
- *Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)*: Student Health Care Center; 392-1161
- *University Police Department*: <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>; 392-1111 (911 for emergencies)

#### ***Academic Resources***

- *E-learning technical support*: [Learningsupport@ufl.edu](mailto:Learningsupport@ufl.edu); <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>; 352-392-4357 (opt. 2)
- *Career Resource Center*: Reitz Union; <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>; 392-1601
- *Library Support*: <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>
- *Teaching Center*: Broward Hall; 392-2010 or 392-6420
- *Writing Studio*: 302 Tigert Hall; <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>; 846-1138

### Procedure for Conflict Resolution

Any classroom issues, disagreements or grade disputes should be discussed first between the instructor and the student. If the problem cannot be resolved, please contact the Undergraduate Coordinator or the Department Chair. Be prepared to provide documentation of the problem, as well as all graded materials for the semester. Issues that cannot be resolved departmentally will be referred to the University Ombuds Office (<http://www.ombuds.ufl.edu>; 392-1308) or the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu>; 392-1261). For further information refer to [https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF\\_Complaints\\_policy.pdf](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf) (for residential classes) or <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaintprocess> (for online classes).

### University grade policies:

For additional important information regarding UF's grade policies, please see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

### Some additional plant 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.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/index.html> – 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.

<https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/herbarium/research/ufcampusflora/UFPlantGuide7-11-17redacted.pdf/> - University of Florida Campus Plant Guide - a document of cultivated and non-cultivated plants on campus including self-guided tours

**Course schedule – subject to change. We will notify you as soon as possible regarding any modifications to this schedule.**

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Meeting place</b>	<b>Homework assigned:</b>
Aug 27	Introductions and <b>Field Trip 1 - Campus</b>	McCarty Courtyard	
Sep 3	Intro to Plant taxonomy	NATL	
Sep 10	<b>Field trip 2 - Alfred Ring Park</b>	Alfred Ring Park	Complete Canvas quiz 1 (due Sep 16)
Sep 17	<b>Field trip quiz 1</b>	Alfred Ring Park	
Sep 24	<b>Field trip 3 - San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park</b>	San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park	Complete Canvas quiz 2 (due Oct 14)
Oct 1	Review session	TBA	
Oct 15	<b>Field trip quiz 2</b>	San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park	Complete first draft of site brochure (due Nov 5)
Oct 22	<b>Field trip 4 - Austin Cary Forest Campus</b>	Austin Cary Forest Campus	Complete Canvas quiz 3 (due Nov 11)
Oct 29	Review session	TBA	Study for plant communities quiz (Nov 5)
Nov 5	<b>Plant communities quiz and review of first draft site brochure</b>	TBA	
Nov 12	<b>Field trip quiz 3</b>	Austin Cary Forest Campus	Complete final draft site brochure (due Dec 3)
Nov 19	<b>Field trip 5 - TBA</b>	TBA	
Dec 3	<b>Final draft site brochure</b>		

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