

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

Meeting times: Fridays

Periods 5 - 7 (11:45 AM - 2:45 PM) OR

Period 8 - 10 (3:00 PM - 6:00 PM)

****Although our course has been assigned a physical classroom, please see the schedule at the end of the syllabus for course format. On field trip and field trip quiz days, we will meet at the field site and each student will be responsible for transporting themselves to and from the field site. Other course meetings will occur via synchronous or asynchronous Zoom sessions. Please see the course schedule at the end of the syllabus and on Canvas for details.****

Instructors:

Dr. Christine Davis (she/her)

Email: christine.davis@ufl.edu

Zoom office hours: By appointment

Ashley Hamersma (Teaching assistant)

Email: ahamersma@ufl.edu

Zoom office hours: By appointment

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 points each 180 points
- 2) 5 asynchronous Canvas quizzes @ 5 pts each 25
205 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) Asynchronous 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.

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 be learning basic techniques of field botany. On these field trips, you'll collect and learn to identify the plants upon which you'll be quizzed. You'll also get a chance to look at the plant communities we've been learning about, and 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.

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. Asynchronous quizzes can be made up in instances of legitimately documented excused absences.

University policies and resources:

We will have face-to-face instructional sessions to accomplish the student learning objectives of this course. In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

- You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.**
- This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing (6 feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks or stations.**

- 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.
- Follow your instructor's guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
- **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](#).**
 - o **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. [Find more information in the university attendance policies](#).**

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.

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.ua.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/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at gatorevals.ua.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; 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; <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 (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.

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

Meeting	Agenda	Meeting type	Homework assigned:
Jan 15	Introduction	Synchronous Zoom	
Jan 22	Field trip 1 - Campus	In person field trip	
Jan 29	Review session 1	Synchronous Zoom	Complete Canvas quiz 1 (due Feb 4)
Feb 5	Field trip 2 - TBA	In person field trip	
Feb 12	Review session 2	Synchronous Zoom	Complete Canvas quiz 2 (due Feb 18)
Feb 19	Field trip quiz 1	In person field quiz	
Feb 26	Field trip 3 - TBA	In person field trip	
Mar 5	Review session 3	Synchronous Zoom	Complete Canvas quiz 3 (due Mar 4)
Mar 12	Field trip quiz 2	In person field quiz	
Mar 19	Field trip 4 - TBA	In person field trip	
Mar 26	Review session 4	Synchronous Zoom	Complete Canvas quiz 4 (due Mar 25)
Apr 2	Field trip quiz 3	In person field quiz	
Apr 9	Field trip 5 - TBA	In person field trip	
Apr 16	Canvas quiz 5 - due April 16	Asynchronous Zoom	