

Local Flora - BOT 3151C (3 credits) – Spring 2022

Meeting times: Thursdays

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

Instructors:

Dr. Christine Davis (she/her)

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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 ~150 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) Plant communities quiz | 60 |
| 3) 1 site brochure | <u>60</u> |
| | 300 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 identify on site and/or find examples of 20 of these species we've learned. Quizzes will be given at a field site and will be given in two parts: 1) individual work, and 2) team work. For the individual part, you'll be asked to identify a species and write its name down. For the team part, we'll assign teams of 2-3 to venture off to work together; each team of two will be randomly assigned a set of species to find together. Each team will hand in their own set of 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) Plant communities quiz. On the first day of class, you'll hear about the community types we'll encounter this semester. At each field trip, we will discuss characteristics of the communities we visit. We expect students to record notes throughout class. The plant communities quiz will focus on applying what you've learned about plant species and the community types in which they are found.

3) Site brochure. This assignment will give you the opportunity to creatively apply what you 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 are possible 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) 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 and 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/. 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.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; 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.

<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.

Meeting	Agenda	Meeting place	Homework assigned:
Jan 6	Introductions and Field Trip 1 - Campus	Rolfs 105	
Jan 13	Field trip 2 – Austin Cary Forest Campus	Behind Bartram-Carr	
Jan 20	Field trip 3 – Cedar Key Scrub	Behind Bartram-Carr	Study plants from first 3 field trips
Jan 27	Review session	Rolfs 105	Study plants from first 3 field trips
Feb 3	Field trip quiz 1 @ Austin Cary	Behind Bartram-Carr	
Feb 10	Field trip 4 – Sweetwater Wetlands Park	Behind Bartram-Carr	
Feb 17	Field trip 5 - NATL	Behind Bartram-Carr	Study plants from first 5 field trips
Feb 24	Review session	Rolfs 105	Study plants from first 5 field trips; Site brochure assigned
Mar 3	Field trip quiz 2 @ NATL	Behind Bartram-Carr	
Mar 17	Field trip 6 – Suwannee River	Behind Bartram-Carr	
Mar 24	Field trip 7 – San Felasco Hammock State Preserve	Behind Bartram-Carr	
Mar 31	Field trip 8 – Alfred Ring Park	Behind Bartram-Carr	Study plants from all 8 field trips; Study for plant communities quiz; Complete site brochure
Apr 5 (Tue)	(No class)		Final draft site brochure due by 11:59 pm – submit on Canvas
Apr 7	Review session and plant communities quiz	Rolfs 105	Study plants from all 8 field trips
Apr 14	Field trip quiz 3 @ San Felasco	Behind Bartram-Carr	Have a wonderful summer break!