

Local Flora - BOT 3151C (3 credits) – Spring 2025
Meeting times: Thursdays periods 3 - 6 (9:35 AM - 1:40 PM)
Rolfs Hall 105, in the field, or behind Bartram-Carr halls (see schedule)

Dr. Christine Davis (she/her)

Email: christine.davis@ufl.edu

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. 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 ~100-130 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) Identify unknown plants using a dichotomous key along with text and web resources.
- 4) Discuss and describe connections between plant species and the local ecosystems in which they are found.

Optional but recommended materials:

- A hand lens
- A pair of pruning shears (available at hardware and gardening stores)
- 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) 2 key exercises @15 points each	30
3) Attendance	<u>60</u>
	270 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) teamwork. For the individual part, you'll be asked to identify a species and write its scientific name down. For the team part, I'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) Key exercises. These exercises will take place in the classroom. You'll work within a group to identify an unknown species of plant using a provided dichotomous key. You'll also be given a set of known plants and asked to construct a dichotomous key to identify them.

3) Attendance. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class each week, starting on the second week of class. Attendance points cannot be made up.

Field trips:

We will visit several different types of plant communities and habitats. 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 and bags for collecting plants in places where we are permitted to collect, clipboard or notebook, water to drink, and snacks/lunch. Smartphones taking photos.
- Specimen collection – **Where permitted** on our field trips, each student will be encouraged to collect a small specimen of each plant species we cover to use as a study aid. You should bring clippers or scissors and a bag for specimens (a plastic grocery bag will do) with you. Masking tape for labeling plant specimens may also be useful.
- 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 canceled due to weather.

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

Make up policy:

Due to the unique constraints of a field course, field trips and field quizzes **CANNOT** be made up. Alternative arrangements to earn credit are possible in instances of legitimately **documented** and excused absences. Absences that may be excused are at Dr. Davis's discretion - **do not assume** you will escape a zero for a missed field quiz or key exercise.

University policies and resources

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>.

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 Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

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 Connections Center*: Reitz Union; <https://career.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>

Course schedule – I will notify you as soon as possible if changes to the course schedule are necessary.

Meeting	Agenda	Meeting place and time (am)
Jan 16	Introduction I: background for understanding our local flora	Rolfs 105 @9:35
Jan 23	Introduction II: how to read a plant's vegetative characteristics	Rolfs 105 @9:35
Jan 30	Field trip 1: Austin Cary Forest	Behind Bartram Carr @9:35
Feb 6	Field trip 2: Prairie Creek Preserve	Behind Bartram Carr @9:35
Feb 13	Key exercise 1 Introduction III: how to read a plant's reproductive characteristics	Rolfs 105 @10:30
Feb 20	Field quiz 1: Austin Cary Forest	Behind Bartram Carr @9:35
Feb 27	Field trip 3: Suwannee River	Behind Bartram Carr @9:35
Mar 6	Field trip 4: NATL	NATL @10:00
Mar 13	Field quiz 2: NATL	NATL @10:00
Mar 20 & 27	NO CLASS – Spring break and Dr. Davis traveling	
Apr 3	Field trip 5: Anastasia State Park	Behind Bartram Carr @8:00
Apr 10	Key exercise 2 Review	Rolfs 105 @10:30
Apr 17	Field quiz 3: TBD	Behind Bartram Carr @9:35