S Y L L A B U S - Online version

LOCAL FLORA BOT 3151C Summer B 2020 3 credits

Instructors:

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Course Description: Local flora is a field-based biology course that explores the rich biodiversity of plant life in northern peninsular Florida. Through a series of online virtual field trips, you will be introduced to various plant communities and ecosystems of northern Florida, and you will learn to identify some of the plant species that occur in these habitats. This course has no official academic prerequisites – students do not need any previous botany background. Yet the course does require students to master some basic botanical concepts. Beginners need not worry – all the concepts needed for success in this course will be taught as we go along. Advanced students will still find the course challenging. Get ready for an adventure!

Course Objectives: By the end of the course, you will be able to: **(1)** Identify (by their Latin botanical names) around 160 plant species from photographs, using morphological and habitat clues. **(2)** Correctly recognize selected natural (and disturbed) ecosystems typical of North Florida, along with their characteristic plant communities. **(3)** Compare and contrast important aspects of local ecosystems, such as fire regime and hydroperiod. **(4)** Outline the geographical, geological, and historical influences that have shaped Florida's plant communities. Additionally, you will be introduced to the use of a dichotomous key to identify an unknown plant, and also basic techniques for specimen collection and curation.

Required Textbook: Harrington, H.D. 1957. ***How to Identify Plants.*** Swallow Press, Athens, Ohio. (Available from online sources. Costs around $15)

Required equipment: One 10x (or 15x) hand lens. (Available at UF Bookstore or online sources).

Additional readings: Selected readings will be assigned from Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI): ***Guide to the Natural Communities of Florida, 2010 edition***, downloadable in PDF format from: **http://www.fnai.org/naturalcommguide.cfm.**

(You will be quizzed on these readings).

Recommended books (optional)**:**

Wunderlin, R. P. and Hansen, B.F. 2011. ***Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida, 3rd Edition***. University Press of Florida, Gainesville. A dichotomous key to Florida plants. (Available from online sources ~$30)

Myers, R.L., and J.J. Ewel, eds. 1990. ***Ecosystems of Florida***. University of Central Florida Press, Orlando. For a deeper look at Florida's ecosystems. (Available from online sources ~$30)

Schedule: Asynchronous, online. Course content (lectures, field trips, reading assignments, labs, and tests) will be made available week by week from July 6 to Aug 13, on the Canvas e-learning website. (See below for details).

Virtual field trips, consisting of video clips and photographs, will be posted on Canvas each week.

- You can take the field trips on your own time, at your convenience. Just be aware of when you will be quizzed on the plants from each field trip, and study accordingly.
- When you go outdoors to explore and look at plants – be prepared for normal summer conditions (i.e. heat, sun, mosquitoes, poison ivy, ticks, rain, etc.)
- **Field trip attendance is expected** if you want to do well in the course.

Week 1 July 6 – 10	**Course introduction.** **Lecture:** Taxonomy and Scientific Names **Lecture:** Plant Biodiversity: An Overview **Assignment:** Plant vegetative characters	**Lecture:** Flora and Plant Communities of Florida **Assignment:** Plant reproductive characters
Week 2 July 13 - 17	**Field Trip 1** – Morningside Nature Center	**Field Trip 2 –** Ocala National Forest **Test 1 –** Covers material from Week 1: Plant Biodiversity; Taxonomy & Scientific Names; Flora & Plant Communities of Florida; Vegetative and Reproductive Characters
Week 3 July 20 - 24	**Lecture:** Endemism **Quiz 1** – Trip 1. **Field Trip 3 -** UF Campus.	**Quiz 2** – Trips 1-2. **Field Trip 4 –** Cedar Key.
Week 4 July 27 - 31	**Lecture:** Intro to Asteraceae and Poaceae. **Quiz 3 -** Trips 1-3. **Field Trip 5 –** Natural Area Teaching Lab	**Quiz 4** – Trips 1-4. **Field Trip 6 –** Suwannee River
Week 5 Aug 3 - 7	**Quiz 5 -** Trips 1-5. **Field Trip 7 –** San Felasco Preserve State Park	**Quiz 6** – Trips 1-6. **Field Trip 8 –** Alfred Ring Park
Week 6 Aug 10 - 13	**Quiz 7 –** Trips 1-7 **Test 2 –** on plant communities and endemism.	**Final Plant Quiz** – Aug 13

Your final grade will be determined based upon the following components:

	points	(% of total)	Grading scale:
1) 7 plant quizzes @ 65 points each	455	(54%)	90% – 100% = A
2) 2 tests covering conceptual material @ 100 points each	200	(24%)	80% – 89% = B
3) 4 graded assignments - 15 points each	60	(7%)	70% – 79% = C
4) 1 final plant quiz @ 130 points	130	(15%)	60% – 69% = D
	TOTAL: 845	possible points	< 60% = E

Your final grade will be expressed as a percentage, calculated from the total points you earn, divided by total possible points.

The components of your grade:

1) **Plant quizzes** will be given and proctored online. These quizzes will test your ability to correctly identify (from photographs) and name plant species from our field trips, and to place them in the context of their habitat preference and importance to humans. *Quizzes may also include questions from assigned readings*. All quizzes are cumulative.
   Only Latin binomial plant names will be accepted: Correct genus name = 1.5 pts. Correct specific epithet = 1.5 pts. No credit will be given for common names.

Quizzes will be available on Tuesdays and Fridays each week. You must complete the quiz on the day it is due to receive credit.

2) **Tests –** Two written tests will be given, each worth 100 points. The first test covers lecture and lab material from the first week of class. The second test covers material from lectures and reading assignments on plant communities and endemism, and will be given in the last week of class.

3) **Graded assignments** – Four graded assignments, 15 points each.

4) **Final plant quiz** – Same format as the regular plant quizzes, but longer, covering all the plants from all 8 field trips. This will be given in the last week of class.

University grade policies – for additional important information regarding UF's grade policies, please see:
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Makeups – Quizzes and class exercises may be made up only if you miss one for a valid reason (e.g., sickness, accident, death in family, etc.) We will work with you to determine if your reason is valid, and a makeup will be arranged.

Attendance policy – Attendance is required for success in this course. The course is intensive and cumulative – skipping class will leave you with a big chunk of missing information in your notes and collections. Don't miss class.

Some Additional Resources – We will use many of these during the course:

http://www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/ - USF Florida Plant Atlas – an excellent resource for photographs and ranges of Florida plants. The companion website for Wunderlin & Hansen's *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida, 3rd Ed.*

https://www.fnai.org/index.cfm - Florida Natural 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/faces/index.xhtml;jsessionid=3FB9D25A579A08F5447155BDEA1AA510 – USDA Forest Service Fire Effects Information System – Lots of general info on species we cover in class.

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

http://www.virtualherbarium.org/lf/ – Fairchild Tropical Garden Virtual Herbarium – Florida Flora Picture Gallery – for more photos of species we cover in class.

https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/java/ – USDA Plants Database – Type a plant name in the search box for more plant info.

Some books you might find useful:

*Godfrey, R.K..1988. *Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of Northern Florida and Adjacent Georgia and Alabama.* University of Georgia Press, Athens, GA.

*Godfrey, R.K. and J.W. Wooten. 1979. *Aquatic and Wetland Plants of Southeastern United States: Monocotyledons.* University of Georgia Press, Athens, GA.

*Godfrey, R.K. and J.W. Wooten. 1981. *Aquatic and Wetland Plants of Southeastern United States: Dicotyledons.* University of Georgia Press, Athens, GA.

*Harris, J.G., and Harris, M.W. 2001. *Plant Identification Terminology: an Illustrated Glossary*. Spring Lake Publishing, Spring Lake, UT.

*Taylor, W. K. 1998. *Florida Wildflowers in their Natural Communities*. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.

*Tobe, J.D. et al. 1998. *Florida Wetland Plants: An Identification Manual*. Fla. Dept. of Enviro. Protection, Tallahassee.

BOT 3151C (online version) – Local Flora – Summer B 2020 – Syllabus, continued.

BOT 3151 (Local Flora) is a 3-credit, 3000-level biological science field course offered by the UF Biology Department as part of our Botany program. The subject matter is the plant life of northern peninsular Florida – Gainesville's "local flora". This class provides students with a field-based opportunity to become familiar with the plant biodiversity of this region, and to learn about the various ecosystems that support this biodiversity and determine its patterns. The course serves students from a wide variety of backgrounds, not just science majors. This class can also be useful for working professionals who need to gain plant identificaion skills and a basic knowledge of the local plant life. BOT 3151C has no official academic prerequisites; students do not need any previous botany background. The course is challenging, as it requires students to study diligently to master some basic botanical concepts along with the identification of numerous plants. Whether beginner or advanced, you will find Local Flora a rewarding challenge.

Virtual Field Trips – In normal times, this is a field-based course, with most of the instruction taking place outdoors in a hands-on manner. But due to the coronavirus pandemic, these are not normal times. For the first time ever, Local Flora is being taught online. We will still be able to study the local plant life right in the places where the plants grow; however, now these excursions into nature will be virtual, with video journeys through the habitats and detailed photos of the plants we will learn.

Optional field experience – Our virtual field trips will present the plants and habitats on video and in photographs. You will learn to recognize and correctly identify the plants as seen in these images. But wherever you happen to be during the semester, we strongly encourage you to venture outside, as your circumstances permit, and look at real plants. See if you can find some of the species we cover in the class.

What you are responsible for learning – Your course grade will be based *primarily* on your ability to recognize and correctly identify the species we will cover on field trips. You will be required to give the correct Latin botanical name for each species (no credit given for common names). This is where the bulk of your points will come from. Additionally, you will be responsible for knowing the basic definitions and key characteristics of each of the ecosystems (habitats) we will cover, including the important plant species typically found in each ecosystem. For each plant species, you should also know its habitat preference, whether it is native to Florida or introduced, and what use or importance it has (if any) to humans.

This course will be fun – if you put in the time to study for it. Most students have a great time, study reasonably hard, and earn high grades. However, it is possible to fail this course. The most common reason for failure or low grades is not studying enough. If you want a high grade, you will have to work for it. ***The 'Summer B' term goes by very fast!*** If you let yourself fall behind, you will have a tough time catching up, and the course will become frustrating and stressful for you. That would be a bummer, and you can prevent that from happening. *So spend some time each day studying your plants, okay? Okay!*

If you need this course to graduate – then study hard and earn a passing grade! No special favors will be done for anyone. If you find you need help, please come to us right away, *while there is still time to do something about it.* Do not wait till the last minute to tell us you need help. We want everyone to succeed.

Students with disabilities - Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. That office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

http://biostat.ufl.edu/resources/student-resources/uf-student-support-links/accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities/

Academic Honesty and Online Exam Proctoring

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://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/

Honorlock will proctor your exams this semester. Honorlock is an online proctoring service that allows you to take your exam from the comfort of your home. You DO NOT need to create an account, download software or schedule an appointment in advance. Honorlock is available 24/7 and all that is needed is a computer, a working webcam, and a stable Internet connection.

To get started, you will need Google Chrome and to download the Honorlock Chrome Extension. You can download the extension at www.honorlock.com/extension/install

When you are ready to test, log into Canvas, go to your course, and click on your exam. Clicking "Launch Proctoring" will begin the Honorlock authentication process, where you will take a picture of yourself, show your ID, and complete a scan of your room. Honorlock will be recording your exam session by webcam as well as recording your screen. Honorlock also has an integrity algorithm that can detect search-engine use, so please do not attempt to search for answers, even if it's on a secondary device.

Good luck! Honorlock support is available 24/7/365. If you encounter any issues, you may contact them by live chat, phone (844-243-2500), and/or email (support@honorlock.com).