

SYLLABUS - Online version

LOCAL FLORA

BOT 3151C

Summer B 2022

3 credits

Instructor:

Paul T. Corogin, Ph.D. – pcorogin@ufl.edu – 385J Dickinson Hall – (352) 256-8102.

Office hours: T, F 2-3 PM: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/97453856324> Passcode: 234242

Course Description: Local flora is a field-based biology course that explores the rich biodiversity of plant life in northern peninsular Florida – Gainesville’s “local flora.” This class provides students with a field-based opportunity to learn about the various ecosystems that support this plant biodiversity and determine its patterns. Through a series of online virtual field trips, we will visit a number of these ecosystems, 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: [Natural Communities Guide - Florida Natural Areas Inventory \(fnai.org\)](http://www.fnai.org) (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)

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.

Course communication:

This is an online asynchronous class, and most of the materials will be available online through the course CANVAS website. You can directly access the Canvas login at <https://elearning.ufl.edu>

CANVAS: BOT 3151C will use the Canvas classroom management system to distribute and store the course syllabus along with any syllabus updates, providing access to course materials, administering quizzes, scheduling Zoom meetings, maintaining student grades, and regular communication with students. These practices will help ensure that all the class participants who may be geographically dispersed and taking courses asynchronously have access to course content. Canvas also will facilitate the process of making up of course work missed because of illness, periods of self-isolation, and other excused absences. Find additional information on using CANVAS (<https://elearning.ufl.edu/>).

ALL E-MAIL CORRESPONDENCE to course instructors must originate from your ufl.edu account, have your full name in the body of the e-mail, and contain your course number in the subject line. E-mails not meeting these requirements may not be recognized by our e-mail filters, and thus may not be answered. For the timeliest responses, use the Inbox Tool in Canvas. Your email will be answered within 24 hours, with exception of weekends when it might take up to 48 hours, please plan accordingly

ZOOM: Zoom is an easy-to-use video conferencing service available to all UF students, faculty, and staff that allows for meetings of up to 100 participants. You can find resources and help using Zoom at <https://ufl.zoom.us>

Course technology requirements:

It is the responsibility of the student to maintain a functioning computing system and internet connection that can meet the minimum technical requirements of the course. Computing/internet connectivity issues will NOT be acceptable excuses for missed deadlines unless they are brought to the attention of the instructor at least 48 hours prior to the deadline and accompanied by the ticket number from technical support.

For issues with technical difficulties for Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu> or (352) 392-HELP (4357). Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from the Help Desk when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

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 during the coronavirus pandemic, Local Flora has been taught online. While in-person classes are now being resumed, this Summer B 2022 offering is online only. We will 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.

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!*

Schedule: Asynchronous, online. Course content (lectures, field trips, reading assignments, labs, and tests) will be made available week by week from June 27 to Aug 5, 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.

<p>Week 1 June 27 – July 1</p>	<p>Course introduction.</p> <p>Lecture: Taxonomy and Scientific Names Lecture: Plant Biodiversity: An Overview</p> <p>Assignment: Plant Vegetative Characters</p>	<p>Lecture: Flora and Plant Communities of Florida</p> <p>Assignment: Plant of the Week</p> <p>Assignment: Plant Reproductive Characters</p>
<p>Week 2 July 4 - 8</p>	<p>Field Trip 1 – Morningside Nature Center</p> <p>Assignment: How to Identify Plants</p>	<p>Field Trip 2 – Ocala National Forest</p> <p>Test 1 – Covers material from Week 1: Plant Biodiversity; Taxonomy & Scientific Names; Flora & Plant Communities of Florida; Vegetative and Reproductive Characters</p>
<p>Week 3 July 11 - 15</p>	<p>Quiz 1 – Trip 1.</p> <p>Field Trip 3 - UF Campus.</p>	<p>Quiz 2 – Trips 1-2.</p> <p>Field Trip 4 – Cedar Key.</p>
<p>Week 4 July 18 - 22</p>	<p>Lecture: Endemism in the Flora of Florida</p> <p>Quiz 3 - Trips 1-3.</p> <p>Field Trip 5 – Natural Area Teaching Lab</p>	<p>Quiz 4 – Trips 1-4.</p> <p>Field Trip 6 – Suwannee River</p> <p>Assignment: Plant of the Week Part 2</p>
<p>Week 5 July 25 - 29</p>	<p>Quiz 5 - Trips 1-5.</p> <p>Field Trip 7 – San Felasco Preserve State Park</p> <p>Assignment: Fruit Identification</p>	<p>Quiz 6 – Trips 1-6.</p> <p>Field Trip 8 – Alfred Ring Park</p>
<p>Week 6 Aug 1 - 5</p>	<p>Quiz 7 – Trips 1-7</p> <p>Test 2 – on plant communities and endemism.</p>	<p>Final Plant Quiz – Aug 4</p> <p>Assignment (Extra Credit): Asteraceae</p>

GRADING:

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

	points	(% of total)
1) 7 plant quizzes @ 65 points each	455	(54%)
2) 2 tests covering conceptual material @ 100 points each	200	(24%)
3) 4 graded assignments - 15 points each	60	(7%)
4) 1 final plant quiz @ 130 points	130	(15%)
TOTAL:	845	possible points

A	90% -	100%
B+	87% -	89%
B	80% -	86%
C+	77% -	79%
C	70% -	76%
D+	67% -	69%
D	60% -	66%
E	<60%	

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 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>

Make-up Policy – Make-up or extensions on online coursework will only be offered in extreme circumstances if a valid and documented excuse is provided. We require that you contact the Dean of Students Office to initiate an Instructor Notification process. You will need to provide documentation of your extenuating circumstances, and then they will issue you a letter verifying your circumstances:

<https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notifications/>

There are no make-ups available for technical difficulties (unless accompanied by a ticket number) or missing a deadline. Be sure to check your tech well ahead of deadlines.

Attendance policy – Attendance is expected 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.

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:

[Attendance Policies < University of Florida \(ufl.edu\)](#)

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: [COVID-19 Updates » UF Health » University of Florida](#)

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/>

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.

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/>

Some Additional Resources – We will use some 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.