BIOL 301 – PLANT TAXONOMY

SPRING, 2014

M 1:00 – 5:00 PM, 204 Science Center, MEET AT THE LIBRARY PARKING LOT FOR FIELD TRIPS

WF 1:00 – 1:50 PM, 204 Science Center

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| INSTRUCTOR: | Dr. Jean Everett |
| OFFICE: | 206 Science Center |
| OFFICE HOURS: | Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 11:00AM – 12:00PM; and by appointment. I will be in my office at other times, and you are welcome to stop in or call. |
| OFFICE PHONE: | 953-7843 |
| MAILBOX: | Biology Department Office, 214 Science Center |
| EMAIL: | everettj@cofc.edu (If I don’t respond, please try again or phone me.) |
| WEBPAGE: | http://everettj.people.cofc.edu/BIOL301.html |

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Judd, W.S., C.S. Campbell, E.A. Kellogg, P.F. Stevens and M.J. Donoghue. 2008. Plant

Systematics: A Phylogenetic Approach, 3rd Ed. Sinauer Associates.

Radford, A., H. Ahles, and C.R. Bell. 1968. Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas.

University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill.

Porcher, R.D. and D.A. Rayner. 2002. A Guide to the Wildflowers of South Carolina. University

of South Carolina Press.

COURSE GOALS:

Students will:

* improve skills in critical thinking and logical reasoning
* develop the ability to identify plants using a variety of mechanisms
* develop an integrated understanding of local vegetation patterns and the underlying ecosystem factors that control vegetation patterns

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students who successfully complete this course:

* have improved skills in critical, synthetic, scientific thinking and logical reasoning, are able to successfully read scientific papers and successfully write a topical review paper
* know the identifying characteristics of the most important plant families found in this region
* know the vegetative and floral characteristics that enable identification of plants using a dichotomous key
* are comfortable using dichotomous keys
* are able to sight identify approximately 150 keystone plant species that are linked to different local ecosystems
* understand how ecological relationships contribute to plant species distributions in the region
* recognize the major plant communities found in this region
* understand basic soil characteristics as they influence plant species distributions
* understand the local geomorphological patterns that control surface soil and hydrological characteristics
* are able to integrate information on geomorphology, soils and hydrological patterns to predict and understand local plant communities

GRADE:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| GRADING SCALE | | | | |
|  | 88-89% = B+ | 78-79% = C+ | 68-69%=D+ |  |
| 93-100% = A | 83-87% = B | 73-77% = C | 63-67%=D |  |
| 90-92% = A- | 80-82% = B- | 70-72% = C- | 60-62%=D- | <60%=F |

Midterm Exams (3) = 30%

Comprehensive

Final Exam = 10%

Flip Participation = 5%

Paper = 10%

Project = 5%

Lab Quizzes = 25%

Lab Keying = 5%

Lab Final = 10%

The midterm and final exams will include technical definitions by term and from photos or diagrams, family identifications from written descriptions and photos, and short answer questions about material covered in both lecture and lab. All electronic devices will be surrendered for the duration of each exam.

The paper will be 5-7 pages (not including Literature Citation section), double spaced, typed in a readable font (eg: Times New Roman 12, Arial 10) on any topic of your choice that is related to this course. You must cite at least 15 modern primary literature papers. Use Web of Science in the library database section of MyCharleston to search for primary literature papers. Use the librarians for help researching your topic. You must also submit your paper to a plagiarism checking site, writecheck.com, and submit the receipt along with your paper. The site charges around $8 to check a paper. You must explain your similarity score. See syllabus for one-page outline and paper due dates.

The project is your contribution to a work in progress. See the links on our web page and the separate handout for more information. See syllabus for project due date.

Lab quizzes will be conducted both in the field and in the lab. Each quiz will include 10 specimens to be identified by family, genus and species. SPELLING COUNTS. Quiz dates are listed on the lab syllabus. I will drop your lowest quiz score, if it is not a zero from an unexcused absence. If I have credible evidence that you have cheated on a quiz, your score for that quiz will be zero.

Lab keying exercises will be conducted as listed on the lab syllabus. Each of you will independently key 3 to 5 fresh specimens to family, genus and species. Be certain to bring your *Manual to the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas* to each keying exercise.

The lab final will be conducted in the lab, and will include 100 specimens (fresh or photographed) to be identified by family, genus and species. Students with a perfect quiz average, including any extra credit, may be exempted from the lab final.

PLEASE NOTE: No makeups will be given for exams without prior notice and a documented absence memo from the Absence Memo Office at 67 George Street. In an emergency, contact me as soon as possible for makeup arrangements. Also, no student will be permitted to begin an exam if any student has already completed the exam. Lab quizzes and the lab final CANNOT be made up.

ATTENDANCE: Your final grade will be dropped by 5% if you miss more than 3 classes, and by 10% if you miss 5 or more classes. Tardiness will count as an absence. If you have a documented absence memo from the Absence Memo Office at 67 George Street, you will be excused from that absence.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: I expect each of you to work independently unless specifically instructed otherwise, and to adhere to the College of Charleston Honor System as described in the Student Handbook.

SPECIAL NEEDS: If you will need any special accommodations to complete the requirements for this course, please contact me as soon as possible.

TENTATIVE LECTURE and LAB SCHEDULE

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | | All handouts on web. An \* indicates a reverse lecture. |  |
|  | | |  |  |
| DATE | | | TOPIC | CHAPTER |
|  | |  |  |  |
| 8 | | Jan. | Introduction | 1 |
| 10 | | Jan. | Classification and Nomenclature | 1-3, App. 1, handout |
|  | |  |  |  |
| 13 | | Jan. | How to really look at plants | handout, 4, App. 2 |
| Lab | | | How to really look at plants, continued |  |
| 15 | | Jan. | Ecological factors that influence plant species distributions | handout |
| 17 | | Jan. | Intro to families; *Lycopodicaceae*, Ferns, *Equisitaceae* | 6-8 |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | |  |  |  |
| 20 | | Jan. | MLK Holiday – MLK Challenge for extra credit |  |
| Lab | | | MLK Holiday |  |
| 22 | | Jan. | *Pinaceae*, *Cupressaceae*; Intro to floral formulas | 8, 9 |
| 24 | | Jan. | Maritime Ecosystems |  |
|  | |  |  |  |
| 27 | | Jan. | No lecture (4 hour field trip) |  |
| Lab | | | Field trip to maritime ecosystems at Seabrook | P&R |
| 29 | | Jan. | *Magnoliaceae*, *Ranunculaceae*, \**Caryophyllaceae* | For all angiosperm families, read the introduction to Chapter 9, the information on each relevant clade, class, subclass, and order, and then the information on each listed family. Use the Table of Contents or the quick reference guide inside the front cover to find page numbers. |
| 31 | | Jan. | EXAM 1 |
|  | |  |  |
| 3 | | Feb. | No lecture – learning how to key |
|  | | Lab | Keying exercise |
| 5 | | Feb. | *Cactaceae*, *Euphorbiaceae*, \**Hypericaceae* |
| 7 | | Feb. | *Fabaceae* – Projects DUE |
|  | |  |  |
| 10 | | Feb. | No lecture (4 hour field trip) |
|  | | Lab | Field trip Sewee Shell Mounds | P&R |
| 12 | | Feb. | *Rosaceae* |  |
| 14 | | Feb. | Longleaf Pine Ecosystems |  |
|  | |  |  |  |
|  | |  |  |  |
| DATE | | | TOPIC | CHAPTER |
|  | |  |  |  |
| 17 | | Feb. | No lecture (4 hour field trip) |  |
|  | | Lab | Field trip to longleaf pine and pocosin ecosystems | P&R |
| 19 | | Feb. | Geomorphology | Handout |
| 21 | | Feb. | Geomorphology, continued |  |
|  | |  |  |  |
| 24 | | Feb. | No lecture – keying – Outlines DUE |  |
|  | | Lab | Keying exercise |  |
| 26 | | Feb. | *\*Fagaceae*, \**Betulaceae*, \**Juglandaceae* |  |
| 28 | | Feb | EXAM 2 – be aware – this is the Friday before break |  |
|  | |  |  |  |
| 3-7 | | March | Spring Break |  |
|  | |  |  |  |
| 10 | | March | No lecture (4 hour field trip) |  |
| Lab | | | Field trip to Caw Caw Nature & History Interpretive Center |  |
| 12 | | March | *\*Ulmaceae*, \**Cucurbitaceae* |  |
| 14 | | March | Beech Ecosystems |  |
|  | |  |  |  |
| 17 | | March | No lecture (4 hour field trip) |  |
| Lab | | | Field trip to beech ecosystems | P&R |
| 19 | | March | *\*Onagraceae*, \**Brassicaceae*, \**Malvaceae* |  |
| 21 | | March | Feeding habits and pollination mechanisms of carnivorous plants (*Sarraceniaceae*, *Lentibulariaceae*, *Droseraceae*) – last day to withdraw | +P&R |
|  | |  |  |  |
| 24 | | March | No lecture – keying |  |
| Lab | | | Keying exercise |  |
| 26 | | March | *Ericaceae*, \**Solanaceae* |  |
| 28 | | March | EXAM 3 |  |
|  | |  |  |  |
| 31 | | March | No lecture (4 hour field trip) |  |
| Lab | | | Field trip to longleaf pine ecosystems | P&R |
| 2 | | April | *Lamiaceae*, *\*Scrophulariaceae* |  |
| 4 | | April | *Apocynaceae*, \**Apiaceae* |  |
|  | |  |  |  |
| 7 | | April | No lecture (4 hour field trip) |  |
| Lab | | | Field trip to swamp forest | P&R |
| 9 | | April | *Asteraceae* |  |
| 11 | | April | Introduction to Liliopsida; \**Liliaceae*, \**Iridaceae* |  |
|  | |  |  |  |
| 14 | | April | No lecture (4 hour field trip) |  |
|  | | Lab | Field trip to longleaf pine ecosystems | P&R |
| 16 | | April | *\*Arecaceae,* \**Araceae*, \**Lemnaceae* |  |
| 18 | | April | *Orchidaceae*; Papers DUE |  |
|  | |  |  |  |
| 21 | | April | No lecture – Final Lab Exam (~1 – 5 pm) |  |
| 23 | | April | *Poaceae*, *\*Cyperacaeae*, *\*Juncaceae* | Handout |
| DATE | | | TOPIC | CHAPTER |
|  | |  |  |  |
| 28 | | April | COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM, 12 – 3 PM |  |
|  | |  |  |  |
|  | |  |  |  |
|  | |  |  |  |

TENTATIVE LAB SCHEDULE

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| DATE | | LAB TOPIC |
|  |  |  |
| 13 | Jan. | How to really look at plants |
| 20 | Jan. | MLK Holiday |
| 27 | Jan. | Field trip to maritime ecosystems at Seabrook (1 – 5 pm) |
| 3 | Feb. | Keying exercise (1 – 5 pm) Lab Quiz |
| 10 | Feb. | Field trip to Sewee Shell Mounds (1 – 5 pm) Field Quiz |
| 17 | Feb | Field trip to longleaf pine and pocosin ecosystems (1 – 5 pm) Field Quiz |
| 24 | Feb. | Keying Exercise Lab Quiz |
| 3 | March | Spring Break!! |
| 10 | March | Field trip to Caw Caw Interpretive Center (1 – 5 pm) Field Quiz |
| 17 | March | Field trip to beech woods (1 – 5 pm) Field Quiz |
| 24 | March | Keying exercise (1 – 5 pm) Lab Quiz |
| 31 | March | Field trip to longleaf pine ecosystems (1 – 5 pm) Field Quiz |
| 7 | April | Field trip to swamp forest (1 – 5 pm) Field Quiz |
| 14 | April | Field trip to longleaf pine ecosystems (1 – 5 pm) Field Quiz |
| 21 | April | Final Lab Exam (~1 – 5 pm) |

INDOOR LABS: Be sure to bring your Manual to all the keying exercises. You may also want to bring your lecture text on those days. If the weather looks bad on a field trip day, bring your Manual, as we may work indoors and reschedule the field trip. See our website for weather links.

FIELD TRIPS: Dress to get wet, dirty, wet, buggy, wet, scratched, wet, muddy, wet, and wet. BE PREPARED! I strongly recommend that you wear long sleeves, long pants, and old shoes or rubber boots. YOU MUST WEAR CLOSED SHOES (no Teva’s, Crocs or other sandals). If you do not wear closed shoes to field labs, you will be dismissed from that lab, as an unexcused absence. Consider a hat and/or sunscreen, and you may want bug spray (no bug spraying in the van!). You should bring plenty of water and perhaps a snack.

Have some way to record information on the species and communities that we learn (clipboard, notebook, cards, tape recorder, camera…). I will permit you to collect a small sample of most of the species we cover. You can bring clippers and a notebook or magazine to press these specimens in the field. You can also label samples with a marking pen or masking tape, keep them fresh in a plastic bag, and press them later. Most plant parts will dry within a week if pressed between several sheets of newsprint, held down with a stack of heavy books or some such. See Appendix 2 in your text for more information.

You will find complete species descriptions in the Manual to the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas, and a lot of ecosystem information in Porcher and Rayner.

I will post our species lists on the web site, including a list linking images, generally by late Monday evening after each field trip.

Please note: You must wear your seatbelt at all times when riding in the van, and no one will sit in the back seat if there are free seats to the front. These are safety issues and non-negotiable. There will be no smoking and no cell phone or other electronic device use on our field trips. If you smoke, please do not smoke right before getting in the van. These restrictions are also non-negotiable.

If you are allergic to bee stings or other venoms, please let me know immediately. You must carry medication.

Some field trips may run late due to unpredictable traffic. Please schedule accordingly, and please let me know as soon as possible if late field trips are going to be a problem for you.