

Field Botany – SCI 4321 – Q1 course – 0.75 credits

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Dr. Jeff Smith – Emeritus Director

Office- Elliott B009C

Contact – please contact me at jsmith4@bsu.edu as I do not have an office phone.

Office hours – 2:00 MWF and by arrangement. Zoom office hours available by request.

COURSE MEETING INFORMATION

1:00 MWF (lecture) and 2:00 – 3:50 T (lab)

We will start most of our classes in B209

COURSE OVERVIEW

Field Botany focuses on learning the methods and tools used to identify common plants in the field. The majority of the class time (lecture and lab) will be outdoors. The focus will be on the identification of common (and some uncommon) woody plants such as trees and shrubs.

However, some course time will be spent on the identification of non-wood weeds, flowers and grasses. The Ball State University campus is an especially rich area for field botany work.

TEXTBOOKS

Plant Biology. Graham, Graham & Wilcox – don't bring to class unless instructed

Newcomb's Wildflower Guide. Newcomb – bring to class every time

Readings and handouts as assigned

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course the student should be able to:

1. Have a working vocabulary of plant parts and terms used in identification
2. Be able to use a "key" to identify an unknown plant.
3. Recognize many common trees, shrubs and other plants.
4. Understand the binomial nomenclature system used to name plants.
5. Recognize and describe common plant families.
6. Be able to use phone apps for plant identification.
7. Use web resources or other references to add to the information about each plant observed during class.

COURSE RECOMMENDED MATERIALS AND CONSIDERATIONS

1. Have a field notebook for taking notes.
2. Be prepared to be outside every class period (appropriate clothing, shoes, head covering, protection against pests etc.)
3. Ability to take pictures of plants will be useful.
4. Ability to consult plant identification apps will be useful.
5. A magnifying device of some sort will be useful.

OUTLINE OF THE COURSE

This outline is tentative. Much will depend on the weather and condition of the plant material. For example, some plants must be seen early in the semester before they drop their leaves. The instructor reserves the right to introduce plants based on opportunity.

Week 1 – Introduction to common terms and how to use a Key. Start of MAD Horse species

Week 2 – completion of MAD Horse species

Week 3 – Forbs of the Prairie

Week 4 – Grasses, Sedges, Rushes and other similar plants

Week 5 – Trees with alternate leaves (non-Oaks)

Week 6 – Oaks

Week 7 - Shrubs

Week 8 – Deciduous and Evergreen Gymnosperms

Week 9 – Course wrap up and final projects

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The course will follow the expectations for academic honesty as described in the student handbook. Any work submitted is automatically assumed to be the sole work of the student. Exceptions should have citations. If in doubt about work submission and the need to use citations please consult with the instructor.

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to be on time for all class periods. We will usually leave the building to work outside immediately after attendance is taken and any class announcements have been made. Students that are 3-5 minutes late will be marked as tardy. Students who arrive after 5 minutes will be marked as absent (chances are we will have already left the classroom and can you find us?). Students whose class schedule requires late arrival should notify the instructor. Prompt arrival is necessary in order to maximize our time outside moving from one plant location to another.

EVALUATION

Grades will be calculated on a percentage of points obtained out of points available. A standard grading scale will be used:

A = 90% or higher

B = 80 – 90%

C = 70 – 80%

D* = less than 70%

The instructor reserves the right to use + grades if applicable on the end of course grade.

BASIS OF COURSE GRADE

Formative assessments – a variety of small quizzes, projects will be given frequently.

Summative assessments – two larger projects are anticipated for the course:

1. Plant Family Presentation – a PowerPoint that describes various characteristics, examples and importance of a plant family. These will be shared with classmates.
2. Data project – this will be a summary of the characteristics for all plants recorded during the course. This can be an Excel spreadsheet or other data manager application.

Additional details on the summative projects will be coming.

MAKE-UP WORK

All work is expected by the class period of the due date. Work will be accepted within 24 hours without penalty. Work submitted after 24 hours without prior arrangements will be penalized 5% each day.

If something happens and you know you will be late with an assignment, please contact the instructor to make arrangements. It is also usually better to submit incomplete work on time than be very late with complete work.

TECHNOLOGY USE

Students are encouraged to locate and download a plant ID app to their phone. These apps will be frequently used in class. Laptops will have minimum use because of the field nature of the course. Plan on using your field notebook and cell phones for most data information.

MANDATORY FIELD TRIPS

We will spend much of our time in the field. Some trips may be across campus requiring extensive walking or use of the campus shuttle. Some meeting locations may NOT be in the classroom in order to save time. Changes in meeting location will be announced in advance.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION POLICY

Ball State University aspires to be a university that attracts and retains a diverse faculty, staff, and student body. We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse as expressed in our Beneficence Pledge and through university resources found at <http://cms.bsu.edu/campuslife/multiculturalcenter>. As such, it is important to ensure that your comments and behavior in class is respectful and inclusive. Discriminatory comments or behavior will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action, in accordance with Indiana Academy and Ball State University policy.

MASK POLICY

The Indiana Academy will follow Ball State University's mask policy. Effective July 1, 2020, all people on campus—including faculty, staff, students, vendors, contractors, suppliers, and visitors—should wear face masks (covering nose and mouth) while inside campus buildings. Face masks are specifically required in the following situations: 1. When in the presence of others (indoors or outdoors) and physical distancing is difficult to maintain, such as in hallways, elevators, stairs, public spaces, and common areas; 2. When in a classroom or laboratory; 3. When using campus transportation (such as a shuttle bus); 4. When multiple individuals are in a University vehicle. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to bring their own mask. Masks will be provided to anyone who is unable to bring a mask or their mask is damaged.

Non-compliance: If a student declines to wear a face mask as required, the student will be referred to the Director of Academic Affairs or the Director of Residential Affairs. If the situation occurs in a classroom or other academic setting, it is considered a classroom management issue, and the teacher will remind the student of the requirement and give the student a chance to comply with it prior to referring the matter to the Director of Academic

Affairs or the Director of Residential Affairs. Wearing masks is crucial to preventing the spread of COVID-19 to others