

HORT 210 (4 crs) ORNAMENTAL PLANTS I
Course syllabus, Fall 2009

Lecture:

Science Hall, Room 112, Monday and Wednesday, 1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

Laboratory:

Science Hall Room 112, Monday, 2:30 – 5.00 PM

Instructor:

Dr. Rolston St. Hilaire

352N Skeen Hall

Office telephone number: 575-646-3638

Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday (8.30 – 9.30p.m.), or by appointment

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Teaching Assistant:

Malik Al-Ajlouni

Office: GT W206

Cell telephone number: 575-650-7381

Course description:

This is a course in classification, identification and landscape use of woody ornamental plants. Emphasis will be on deciduous trees, native shrubs, and evergreens. Emphasis will be placed on ornamental attributes and unique morphological traits important in the identification and landscape use of plants. Laboratories will provide opportunities for students to gain practical skills in plant identification.

Course objectives:

1. Use visual observation to identify ornamental plants by genus, species, and common names.
2. Use scientific names and terminology to describe ornamental plant species.
3. Have a working knowledge of the use of ornamental plants in designed landscapes.
4. Obtain information on plant materials from literature, computer technology, and human resources.

Expected student outcomes:

1. Given 35 ornamental plants selected from the course's plant list, 60% students will be expected to correctly identify the genus, species, and common names of the plants with 70% accuracy.
2. Given plants selected from the course's plant list, students will be expected to have a working knowledge of the landscape uses of those plants.

Class Resources:

1. Required;

St. Hilaire, R. 2009. HORT 210-Ornamental Plants (available on course website or CD)

2. Strongly Recommended;

Dirr, M.A. 1998. Manual of woody landscape plants: Their identification, ornamental characteristics, culture, propagation and uses. 5th ed. Stipes, Champaign, Illinois.

Examination procedures:

1. Lecture

You will be required to take three quizzes and a final examination (see class schedule for dates). You will be tested on materials presented in lecture, reading assignments, and handouts. The quizzes will be on material covered since the last examination. The final examination is cumulative. You will be allowed to **take home** the final exam.

The quizzes will be set as follows:

Section 1: Slide identification

Section 2: Multiple choice and/or short answers

Section 3: True/false; All false answers have to be justified to receive full credit. False answers that do not have correct justification will receive only half the credit.

2. Mystery Plant

Each student will be required to identify an unknown plant specimen from live specimens, photographs, or herbarium specimens.

3. Semester brochure project

Each student will be required to create a **ONE**-page brochure on one ornamental plant. Each student will select a different species. The plant will be assigned during the second week of class and will be due on November 11, 2009. You will be required to show two drafts of your project. Ten points (5 points on each occasion) will be awarded if the project is progressing satisfactorily. You will be required to address the topics outlined below. You will be awarded 50 points for the content of the project. Feel free to include topics not outlined below or to turn in your project before the due date.

You must include at least five references. A maximum of two references can be from the internet, CD-ROM, video or software. Give the URL (Universal Resource Locator) of the homepage of your internet reference. You may choose any style for literature citations, but use only one style throughout the project. Use any style for your brochure. A second page should be turned in to include your name and the list of references you used in the brochure. **Do not staple the two pages together.**

Include the following topics in your project:

1. Scientific name, scientific authority, and common name (s).
2. History
3. Family and family attributes
4. Identifying features of this plant
5. Landscape problems (branches break easily, allergic reactions to pollen, high water use, and so on)
6. Major diseases and pests affecting the plant

7. Drought tolerance, salinity tolerance and water use
8. Landscape use; Special uses of the plant

4. Laboratory quizzes (10 points each).

Each week in laboratory you will be required to identify five (5) plants from the previous week's list. Bonus points may be awarded occasionally. You will have the option to one extra quiz. I will automatically drop your lowest quiz grade if your grade on the optional quiz is better than any of your previous lowest score. Consider dressing to accommodate prevailing weather conditions, because **laboratories will involve walks, gentle hikes, and transportation to specific outdoor sites. Labs will not be cancelled because of weather.**

You will be required to identify 35 plants for the laboratory final. Two (2) bonus plants will be included. Identification includes:

<i>Genus</i>	1 point (½ point for punctuation and spelling)
<i>Species</i>	½ point (¼ point for punctuation and spelling)
Common Name	½ point (¼ point for punctuation and spelling)
	2 points per plant

This format also will be used to grade slide identification, but you will be provided with several images to make your identification.

Grading Summary

	Total percentage possible
Lecture quizzes	36%
Final examination	10%
Brochure	12%
Mystery Plant	4%
Lab quizzes	24%
Lab final	<u>14%</u>
Total	100%

Final grades

- A = 90% or higher
- B = 80%
- C = 70%
- D = 60%
- F = 55% or lower

Course activities

August

- 24 Introduction and plant nomenclature, no lab
- 26 Plant list for week #1.
- 31 Leaf, bud, and stem morphology; Lab: Plant list for week #1

September

- 2 Plant list for week #2, assign plant list
- 7 Labor day, no class

- 9 Plant list for week #3
- 14 Plant list for week #3, review for quiz I
Lab: Plant ID-1 and plant list for week #2 and #3
- 16 **Quiz I**
- 21 Plant list for week #4, Lab: Plant ID-2 and 3, Plant list for week #4

- 23 Flower morphology
- 28 Plant list for week #5. Draft of brochure is due. Lab: Plant ID-4, plant list for week #5
- 30 Plant list for week #6

October

- 5 Plant list for week #6. Lab: Plant ID-5 and plant list for week #6. Review quiz II
- 7 **Quiz II**, Plant list for week #7,
- 12 Plant list for week #7, Lab: Plant ID-6 and week #7 plants
- 14 Plant list for week #8, **Last day to drop with "W"**.
- 19 Plant list for week #8. **Second draft of brochure**. Lab: Plant ID-7 and week #8 plants.
- 21 Plant list for week #9
- 26 Plant list for week #9, Lab: Plant ID-8 and plants for week#9
- 28 Plant list for week #10

November

- 2 Plants for week #10
Lab: Plant ID-9 and plants for week#10
- 4 keys for New Mexico conifers, Mystery Plant will be given.
- 9 Plants for week #11 plants,
Lab: Plant ID-10 and plant list for week #11
- 11 Plants for week #12, **semester project is due**,
- 16 Plants for week #12 plants, Lab: Plant ID-11 (optional or makeup) and plant list for week #12
- 18 **Quiz III**, Review for final ID
- 23-27 **Thanksgiving holiday**
- 30 **Final plant ID**, make up quiz for excused absences only

December

- 2 Course review, final ID is handed out
- 7 **Final take home is due by 3.00 pm**

Attendance

Due to the nature of the materials in this class, **attendance is mandatory**. You will receive zero points for unexcused absences from examinations or quizzes. One cumulative make-up examination will be given for legitimate, excused absences (for example, university approved trips, medical and military leave, family tragedy).

Students with disabilities

If you have (or believe you have) a disability and would benefit from classroom accommodation(s), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Office located at Corbett Center, Room 244 [Phone: 646-6840; TTY: 646-1918]

Student Responsibilities:

1. Register with SSD and obtain accommodation documents early in the semester;
2. Deliver the completed accommodation and testing form(s) to the instructor(s) within the first two weeks of beginning of classes (or within one week of the date services are to commence);
3. Retrieve the signed form(s) from faculty and return to SSD within (5) days of the receipt from faculty and at least one week before any scheduled exam; and,
4. Contact the SSD Office if the services/accommodations requested are not being provided, not meeting your needs, or if additional accommodations are needed. Do not wait until you receive a failing grade. Retroactive accommodations cannot be considered.

Faculty Responsibilities

1. Sign the *ACCOMMODATION REQUEST FORM* and *TESTING ACCOMMODATION FORM* (when presented), retain a copy, and return the original to the student within five (5) working days of receipt;
2. Contact SSD immediately if there are any questions or disputes regarding accommodation(s), disruptive behavior, etc.; and,
3. Refer the student to SSD for any additional accommodations.
Accommodations: SSD Office, 646-6840 (Corbett Center, room 244)
Discrimination: Office for Institutional Equity, Mr. Paul Gayle-Smith, 646-3635, O'Loughlin House