

Teaching Plan for HORT 211, Ornamental Plants
Instructor: Rachel Gioannini
Semester: Fall 2020

HORT 211 (Ornamental Plants) Identification, botanical characteristics, culture, and landscape uses of woody plants. Emphasis on flowering trees, cacti, and members of the pea and rose families.

HORT 211 is a four-credit course that meets twice per week for lecture (M/W 12-1:15pm) and once per week for lab (M 1:30-4pm). The lectures are scheduled to meet in Skeen Hall W129 and labs are weekly field trips to see *in situ* the plants discussed in lecture. The course is capped at 24 and has ranged from 9 to 21 over the last 5 years. I intend to keep course content similar to previous semesters, with the addition of a plant portfolio. The following exceptions will be made for the implementation of safety practices to help prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19 in the instructional environment.

1. Lectures will be available on zoom, presented at “normal” class time, then recorded for students to access on their own time. Exams will be offered through Canvas using question banks to eliminate students having the same exams. This eliminates group gatherings and activity in the building.
2. Labs: To reduce student density, increase social distancing and reduce face-to-face contact, labs can be conducted in a number of different modes. Listed below are options, with options a-c being best. Actual, physical interaction with the plants is far superior to internet search and as such, option f below will be a last resort.
 - a) Students will be provided with a map and can look for the plants on their own
 - b) Students can search for the plants in their own neighborhoods and communities
 - c) Labs running concurrently with myself and the TA walking groups of 10 or less students to plants around campus
 - d) If students do not have access to vehicles to view off campus plants, small groups (less than 6) can be taken to plants by myself or the TA
 - e) As a last resort, students can do an online search for plants

Regardless of how students observe the plants, they will be required to assemble a plant portfolio with their own photos of each plant, as well as other plant information.

If option c is chosen, labs will be capped at 10 and split into 2 groups. Labs can be split between myself and the TA and if a 3rd group is required, another time will need to be found that is amenable to those students. Groups will follow CDC guidelines to prevent spread of COVID-19, including 1) self-monitoring using guidelines from the Aggie Wellness Center; 2) ‘remaining at home if ill’ policy; 3) wearing an approved facemask when on campus if such a directive remains in effect; 4) maintaining six feet social distancing and 5) practicing frequent hand washing.

If option d is actually an option, CDC guidelines will be implemented to prevent virus spread. These guidelines include 1) self-monitoring using guidelines from the Aggie Wellness Center; 2) ‘remaining at home if ill’ policy; 3) wearing an approved facemask when on campus if such a

directive remains in effect; 4) maintaining six feet social distancing as work duties permit; 5) cleaning and disinfecting of vehicles during use; and 6) and practicing frequent hand washing.

3. TA interaction will be accomplished through weekly zoom meetings and shared Dropbox files. Office hours will be available via zoom at the student's request.
4. Contact tracing: For contract tracing, student will immediately notify me if they suspect they are ill (fever in excess of 100.4 degrees F, cough, or shortness of breath), or if they are notified that they may have potentially been exposed to COVID-19. Once I learn that a student may have a virus or has been tested as presumptively positive, I will work with the student promptly to isolate them so that they do not transmit it further. I will then work with that student directly to understand who they have come in contact with. Any student who has been infected will be asked about their contacts, and then those contacts are approached. The affected students will call their physician, the NM Department of Health COVID Hotline, or the student health center and, if not already done so, will arrange for a test. In extreme cases, they will call 911. Affected student will return to class only if they have been tested and only after a negative test, or will self-quarantine for 14 days if the test is positive. I will maintain email and telephone of students and their contacts, and keep daily attendance. I will subsequently notify Dr. Rolston St. Hilaire (Department Head) if a student is ill, if positive test results are obtained, and all of the persons with whom the student has had in-person contact.