

## ETHNOBOTANY (UWSP BIOLOGY 353/553): FALL 2021

Instructor: Dr. Stephanie Lyon

Office: CBB 212; Cell: 608-358-0401; email: slyon@uwsp.edu

Lecture M/W 11:00 to 11:50 in CBB 131; Lab W 14:00 to 15:50 in CBB 276/270A

An overview of ethnobotany with emphases on 1) identification and human uses of Wisconsin plants, 2) globally significant economic plants, and 3) impacts of plants on the development of human history and culture. We will study the importance of plants in our lives through a variety of activities, field trips, reading assignments, discussions, and projects.

By the end of the semester, you should be able to:

- Explain proper methodology for ethnobotanical research and associated ethical issues
- Recognize and name useful local plants and explain their uses and preparation.
- Explain how human uses for plants are related to plant morphology, evolutionary relationships, and chemical constituents
- Explain the relationship of plant domestication/agriculture to the development of human culture
- Explain the historical and current importance of plants as food, medicine, mind-altering products, and the basis of human material culture

### **Text**

*Plants in our World: Economic Botany* by Simpson and Ogorzaly [Required rental from bookstore]

### **Point allocation**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Points (of 100)</b>
Exam 1	25
Exam 2	25
Plant names assignment (extra credit)	+5 EC
Activity Reflections (ten, at 2 points each)	20
Project 1 (ethnobotany garden plant blurb and/or illustration(s))	5
Project 2 (conservatory presentation, peer review & webpage)	25

## Exams

There will be 2 non-comprehensive lecture exams. You can expect to be evaluated with essay questions, recognition of plants and their properties, matching and diagrams to be labeled. Common names, genera, and/or families of plants may be required.

## Grading scale

93% and above = A	73-77% = C
90-92% = A-	70-72% = C-
88-89% = B+	68-69% = D+
83-87% = B	60-67% = D
80-82% = B-	below 59.5% = F
78-79% = C+	

## Tentative Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lecture Topic</u>	<u>Lab activity</u>
8-Sep	Introduction to the course and projects	Field trip (walking) to UWSP Ethnobotanical Garden
13-Sep	Lecture: Plants in our world (Ch. 1)	
15-Sep	Lecture: Central Wisconsin ethnobotany	Field trip (vans) to Wisconsin River and Freckmann property in Stevens Point, WI; Guest-lecture from Bob Freckmann (UWSP emeritus) on Wisconsin useful plants (emphasis on aquatic species)
20-Sep	Lecture: Central Wisconsin ethnobotany, cont.	
22-Sep	Lecture: Central Wisconsin ethnobotany, cont.	Field trip (walking) to Schmeckle Reserve Pavilion; Guest lecture from David Eagan (UW-Madison visiting scholar) on Wisconsin useful plants and cordage-making
27-Sep	Review in CBB 276: Central Wisconsin ethnobotany	

29-Sep	Lecture: Central Wisconsin ethnobotany, cont.	Zoom-based guest lecture from Virginia Freire (UWSP emeritus) on Central American ethnobotany; <b>Practice quiz on Central Wisconsin ethnobotany</b>
4-Oct	Lecture: Origins of agriculture (Ch. 2)	
6-Oct	Temperate & tropical fruits (Chs. 4, 5)	Field trip (walking) to CBB Tropical Conservatory tour and final project selection
11-Oct	Old and New World grasses (Chs. 6, 7)	
13-Oct	Legumes (Ch. 8)	Field trip (vans) Rising Sands Organics Farm in Custer, WI; Guest lecture from farmer Polly on sustainable farming
18-Oct	In-class discussion: Planning for conservatory project	
20-Oct	Foods from stems, leaves & roots (Chs. 9, 10)	In-person guest lecture from Eve Emshwiller (UW-Madison) on Oca
25-Oct	<b>Exam 1</b>	
27-Oct	Herbs & spices (Ch. 13)	In-person guest lecture from Ken Cameron (UW-Madison) on Vanilla
1-Nov	Medicinal plants (Ch. 14)	
3-Nov	Medicinal plants, continued	Zoom-based guest lecture from David Foster (Messiah Univ.) on medicinal & poisonous plants
8-Nov	Psychoactive plants (Ch. 15)	
10-Nov	Psychoactive plants, continued	Field trip (vans) to Liberation Farms/Coffee in Almond, WI, guest lecture from Holly Petrillo & John Sheffy on sustainable coffee and cacao farming and coffee roasting

15-Nov	Stimulating beverages (Ch. 16)	
17-Nov	Wood & cork products (Ch. 19)	Zoom-based guest lecture from Emmet Judziewicz (UWSP emeritus) on uses of bamboo
22-Nov	Fibers & dyes (Ch. 18)	<i>[No Wednesday class or lab this week— Thanksgiving]</i>
29-Nov	Student presentations	
1-Dec	Student presentations	Natural dyes activity
6-Dec	Student presentations	
8-Dec	<b>Exam 2</b>	Student presentations, natural dyes part 2

**Final exam period:** Thursday, December 16, 2:45-4:45 CBB 276