

BOTANY 401
VASCULAR FLORA OF WISCONSIN
24 May – 12 July 2011

Instructors:

Brent Berger	babberger2@wisc.edu	Birge 258	10am T or by appt (262-4422)
Ben Grady	brgrady@wisc.edu	Birge 258	10am TR or by appt
Sam Schultz	sjschul2@wisc.edu	Birge 243	10am TR or by appt

COURSE GOALS:

1. Identify by sight conspicuous vascular plant species of the Wisconsin summer flora
2. Learn the key features of major plant families prevalent throughout the world
3. Use the tools of modern plant taxonomy: identification keys, herbaria, GPS, key websites
4. Create and curate a plant collection to build up the Wisconsin Student Herbarium
5. Have fun!

Field trips: Tuesdays 11:45-5:00, 8:00-5:00 ******(15 June, 5 July)

We will *DEPART PROMPTLY* with or without you, so meet early at the Birge Hall loading dock by the garden.

Laboratory: Thursdays 11:45- 1:45, Birge 243

Required Texts/Supplies:

40\$ fee for the course to help offset bus fuel costs- pay in front office ASAP (Birge 132)

Gleason, H.A. and A. Cronquist. 1991/1993/1995. *Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada*. New York Botanical Garden, New York, NY. [this book is no longer in print, but can be obtained from a number of websites (e.g. Amazon.com) for **~\$80**]

Black, M.R. and E.J. Judziewicz. 2009. *Wildflowers of Wisconsin and the Great Lakes Region*. UW Stevens Point Press - [this book is also available from a number of websites for **~20\$**]

Purchase a hand lens, small field notebook and dissecting kit for use in the field—all are available at the University Bookstore. You may also purchase a hand lens at Burnie's Rock Shop. A clipboard might also be nice to write on in the field, if you have one.

Grading:

Grades consist of 5 field-based Quizzes (**50 points each, 200pts total**), 2 Exams (**100 points each, 200pts total**), participation in lab (**25 points**) and a Plant Collection (**175 points**, see rubric) for a total of **600pts**.

You will be able to drop one quiz grade. The final letter grade will follow the standard UW grading scale.

Ground Rules:

- Attendance is **MANDATORY** for fieldtrips and labs because of the field-based and seasonal nature of the course. It is virtually impossible for us to offer any sort of make-up times.
- Transportation to and from the field sites (*with the exception of the three Arboretum trips*) will be via schoolbus. We ask that you not take your personal vehicle for liability reasons and we cannot bring extra people with us on the bus. We can arrange carpools for Arboretum trips or show you the best bus/bike routes to get there.
- Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear for our fieldtrips. We recommend long pants and close-toed shoes (or waterproof sandals) to fend off mosquitoes/ticks and scratchy plants. You will want to bring a hat, sunscreen, bugspray and water for the fieldtrips.

Disclaimer: This syllabus is a guideline only. We reserve the right to change aspects of it throughout the course without prior notice. These requirements may be added to or subtracted from at any time to maintain a healthy, sane, and enjoyable learning environment.

SCHEDULE

Tues, May 24th. **Introduction to course and plant morphology**

- Course basics: who are you, who are we, what will we do, where will we go, what will you learn?!
- Resources- Herbaria, garden, greenhouse, websites
- Plant structure I- Vegetative morphology and Plant structure II- Flower and Fruit morphology
- Introduction to keying- **Hand in Keying Activity for 10 points towards Quiz 1**

Thurs, May 26th.

- QUIZ 1- Plant structures I & II**
- Introduction to plant collecting and establish groups for collecting project
- Lab: Eudicots I: **Ranunculaceae, Rosaceae, Brassicaceae**

Tues, May 31st. **Field Trip #1: (11:45- 5:00) UW Arboretum I: the Grady Tract/Greene Prairie**

Thurs, June 2nd. **OPTIONAL CLASS to practice keying and reemphasize terminology**

Tues, June 7th. **Field Trip #2: (11:45- 5:00) Oliver Prairie, Abraham's Woods, Murault Bluff**
QUIZ 2

Thurs, June 9th. **Plant Collection Checkpoint 1**

Lab: Showy Monocots: **Liliaceae, Iridaceae, Araceae, Orchidaceae**

Tues, June 14th. **Field Trip #3 (**8:00-5:00) Beulah Bog, Bluff Creek Fen**
QUIZ 3

Thurs, June 16th.

Lab: Trees and Ferns. ***Bring iPod (non-nano) if you have one!

Tues, June 21st: **Field Trip #4 (11:45-5:00) Pleasant Valley**
EXAM 1

Thurs, June 23rd. **Plant Collection Checkpoint 2**

Lab: Eudicots II: **Fabaceae, Lamiaceae, Ericaceae, Apiaceae, Caryophyllaceae**

Tues, June 28th. **Field Trip #5 (11:45-5:00) UW Arboretum II: North Arb.**
QUIZ 4

Thurs, July 30th. **Plant Collection Checkpoint 3**

Lab: Graminoids: **Poaceae, Cyperaceae, Juncaceae**

Tues, July 5th. **Field Trip #6 (**8:00-5:00) Ft. McCoy**
QUIZ 5

Thurs, July 7th.

Lab: Tricky families: **Euphorbiaceae, Asclepiadaceae, Asteraceae**

Tues, July 12th. **Field Trip #7 - UW Arboretum:**
Exam 2 (11:45-1:45)
Lab: Final project presentations 2:30-