

BIOL 527 -- SPRING FLORA SYLLABUS SPRING 2013

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Office hours: Tuesday 8am-9am, or by appointment

Class meeting times: TUESDAY 11am-430pm, THURSDAY 11am-1215pm

1 required text:

Radford, A. E., C. R. Bell, and H. Ahles. 1968. **Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas**. Chapel Hill: UNC Press.

Strongly recommended: a magnifier or hand lens, or "pocket loupe," 10X is all you need...not any higher! Available on the web through forestry supply companies, or Herbarium Supply Company, or Amazon.com, etc etc.

LEARNING OUTCOMES. This is an introductory plant taxonomy course, involving substantial field work. Successful participants in this course will have attained a legitimate job skill, as well as:

- Knowledge of names and the field identification of the local vascular flora.
Students are required to know, by sight, the scientific names of 150 (approx.) species of local plants.
- Knowledge of botanical terminology and principles of plant taxonomy.
- Ability to identify plants using technical keys in Radford's "Manual".
- Understanding of the significance of taxonomy.

Course grade determination:

Average of 7 field quizzes (one every field trip):	100 points
Average of lecture quizzes (one every lecture):	100 points
Midterm test:	100 points
Final exam:	<u>150 points</u>
	450 points total

Graduate students are additionally responsible for a collection of 50 completed, labeled herbarium specimens, for an additional 100 points.

Grading	
90-100 (405+ points)	A
86-89 (387 points)	B+
80-85 (360 points)	B
76-79 (342 points)	C+
70-75 (315 points)	C
66-69 (297 points)	D+
60-65 (270 points)	D
<59	F

There will be no extra credit possibilities. No incompletes will be given.

Biology majors are reminded that this is not a REQUIRED course; nevertheless, a grade of C or better is required for credit. In cases of borderline percentages, your attendance, punctuality, and class participation will be used in part to determine your final grade.

USC policy allows for grade reduction to be enforced if 10% or more of scheduled class meetings (i.e., 3 absences) are missed, with or without legitimate excuses.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY. The recording of lectures to facilitate note-taking is permitted. Internet access, and any use of laptops, or cell phones, or any device allowing texting is absolutely forbidden in all lectures and field trips. Habitual offenders may expect a grade reduction at the discretion of the instructor, as approved by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. **NO** electronic devices may be used during any quiz or exam; violation in this rule will result in a grade of 0 for that quiz/exam, and subsequent report to the Dean's office.

FIELD TRIPS ARE MANDATORY. Please be prompt for field trips, or you will be left behind. Destinations (see below) may be changed. The timing of field trips involves a return to campus by 430pm; every effort will be made to adhere to this schedule. As the field trips obviously involve the outdoors, please PLAN to get dirty, as WE WILL end up in wet, muddy, messy, stickery, fire-ant-and-other-insect-filled places from time to time. Suitable field attire includes anything you wish to wear; shorts are not recommended. While sandals, crocs, and flip-flops are variably stylish and appropriate in many social settings, they are not suitable on field trips.

There are 28 class meetings. Here are some important dates. Dates of off-campus field trips (in italics) are subject to change:

January 15 T	Campus field trip
<i>January 22 T</i>	<i>Peach Tree Rock, Lexington County</i>
<i>February 5 T</i>	<i>Belser Arboretum and Riverfront Park, Richland County</i>
<i>February 19 T</i>	<i>Saluda Shoals Park, Lexington County</i>
February 28 TH	Midterm Exam
March 4 M	Last day to withdraw with grade of W
March 5 T	<i>Millaree Hunt Club, Richland County</i>
March 12 T	Spring Break
March 14 TH	Spring Break
<i>March 19 T</i>	<i>Clemson Sandhills Research Station, Richland County</i>
<i>April 2 T</i>	<i>Millaree Hunt Club, Richland County</i>
<i>April 9 T</i>	<i>Sesquicentennial State Park, Richland County</i>
<i>April 16 T</i>	<i>Riverbanks Botanical Garden, Lexington County</i>
April 25 TH	Final class meeting
May 3 F	Final Exam 900am

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INSURING YOUR SUCCESS IN THIS CLASS:

1. Attend every lecture and field trip; remember that field trips are mandatory.
2. Practice keying /identifying plants **OUTSIDE** the classroom.
3. Make connections between the genera and species you learn with the **FAMILIES** to which they belong.
4. Prepare and regularly add to a scrapbook of plant fragments as a study aid, and **USE IT**.

VIVAT LINNAEUS