

INTRODUCTION to ETHNOBOTANY
BIOL 128
Frostburg State University
Fall Semester 2007
4 credits
Professor Sunshine L. Brosi

Contact Information

304 Compton Hall

301-687-4213

slbrosi@frostburg.edu

If I am unavailable please contact Ms. Elrick, Administrative Assistant, 301-687-4166

Office Hours

Monday 9-11 am

Tuesday 10-11 am

Wednesday 1-2 pm

Thursday 1-2 pm and additional times available by appointment.

Course Hours

Lecture Section: Friday 2-4:50 pm, Compton Hall 316

Lab Section: Thursday 3:20-5:10 pm, Compton Hall 328

Core Textbooks

Martin, G. 2004. Ethnobotany: A methods manual. Chapman and Hall.

Alexiades, M (ed). 1996. Selected guidelines for ethnobotanical research; a field manual. Advances in Economic Botany, New York Botanical Gardens.

Additional useful resources

Additional reading material will be made available through photocopies. This course does not have a specific plant identification guide. Please bring in your own guide that you feel comfortable using, check a few out of the library, my office, or look through the ones at a local state park or forest. A few suggestions are listed below.

Foster, S. and J.A. Duke. 2000. A field guide to medicinal plants and herbs of Eastern and Central North America. (Peterson Field Guide)

Newcomb, L. 1977. Newcomb's wildflower guide.

Cech, R. 2002. Growing at risk medicinal herbs and Making plant medicines.

<http://www.unitedplantsavers.org>

<http://www.horizonherbs.com/>

Arboretum Work Days

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in an Arboretum work day, usually held from 12-4pm on Saturdays. Students who participate in a four hour work day will receive 3 points of extra credit on the next exam; only one extra credit will be given for each exam. When you volunteer, please give your name to the person in charge and ask them to tell me you were there. This is a great opportunity to experience service learning and interact with other students and learn plant and tree identification.

Course Description

Introduction into the discipline of ethnobotany focusing on the role of plants in Appalachian and other cultures. Field trips to local parks and visits with people active in the use of plants will provide opportunities for hands-on experiences with techniques and methods used by field ethnobotanists.

Ethnobotany is the study of the interaction between plants and people. This course provides an introduction to the discipline by focusing on principles and methods used in the field of ethnobotany. This course will also introduce the new ethnobotany major and the three concentrations: pharmacological, biogeography, and cultural. Fieldtrips to local parks and visits with people active in the use of medicinal plants will provide opportunities for hands-on experience with techniques and methods used by field ethnobotanists. The outcome should be a general working knowledge of the discipline of ethnobotany and a firm basis for expansion into related fields of study.

Course Objectives

- 1) Create an active learning environment for students to gain an understanding of concepts and principles relating to ethnobotany (Lectures, presentations, discussion of assigned readings, field trips, and projects will be used to foster this learning).
- 2) Engage students in learning about the value of plants in their own culture and how this compares to the intrinsic value of the environment within other cultures.
- 3) Provide an opportunity for students to apply their ethnobotanical knowledge to aspects of intellectual property rights and evaluate how ethics in the discipline of ethnobotany pertains to them as students.

This course will also familiarize or give additional practice with writing in a laboratory manual, completing a scientific literature review, writing a scientific paper, and giving a scientific presentation using PowerPoint.

Grading Policy

Final grades will be determined by averaging three exams, a comprehensive final, a final project with presentation, and class attendance and participation.

Letter grades will be based on a standard 10-point scale:

A = 90-100%; B = 80-89%; C=70-79%; D=60-69%; F= below 60%.

Neither the CS nor the NC are options for this course.

30% Laboratory ethnobotanical journal

20% Exams

20% Final Project (5% draft of paper, 10% final paper, 5% Presentation)

20% Final Exam

10% Attendance and Participation

Laboratory

The laboratory portion of this course is designed to provide hands-on experience in the field of ethnobotany. The labs explore the lecture topics in greater depth than is possible in a lecture setting. You are expected to read through the lab before coming to lab. You are also expected to turn in the completed lab assignment on or before the due date indicated on the lab. Part of the laboratory exercise is to keep a complete ethnobotanical journal for information gained inside and outside of the lab. The lab is worth 30% of your final course grade.

Exams

Two exams based on assigned readings and lecture notes will be given throughout the semester. Both exams will be given at the first hour of the lecture hour.

Lecture will proceed after the exam. Exams will account for a total of 20% of the final grade.

Final Project

A final project will consist of an investigation into a topic you are interested in. The project will consist of a final paper (3 to 4 pages double spaced, times new roman, 12 pt. font) and a final presentation (15 minute, PowerPoint). Additional information on the paper and project will be upcoming. Please be thinking about what types of projects interest you.

Final Exam

A cumulative final exam will be given in this course. The exam will account for 20% of the final grade.

Attendance and Participation

A participation grade of 10% will reflect course attendance and active involvement in asking questions during lectures and labs. Be sure to read all assignments and be prepared to summarize the material. All students are expected to attend all course periods and laboratory periods. Three unexcused absences in lecture will lower your final average by one letter grade. Tardiness will not be permitted and

will result in being left during field exercises. If a student is participating in co- and extracurricular activities, or has an excused absence, I must be notified as soon as possible to arrange make-up assignments. Late and incomplete assignments will result in a severe grading penalty of at least one letter grade for every course period late. Missing assignments will result in a failing grade for that particular assignment.

Inclement Weather

Labs and courses will be cancelled only if FSU has a delayed opening during the time of the course or is officially closed. Be prepared to attend labs outside in rain, snow, and cold. Be prepared to encounter mud, poison ivy, ticks, and other elements of nature.

Class Policies

There will be no cell phones on the desk or in class or lab. There will be no use of laptops unless prior consent is obtained for special circumstances. You may not eat food or use tobacco products in class or labs.

Academic honesty and misbehavior

The statement on academic dishonesty in the Pathfinder is in effect. Cheating in any capacity in this course will not be tolerated. If cheating or plagiarism is encountered, the instructor may administer a grade of zero or an F in the class depending on the severity of the incident. Students are expected to abide by the University's Code of Student Conduct and disruptive behavior in the classroom may result in an administrative withdraw.

Accommodations for students with disabilities

Frostburg State University is committed to providing equal educational opportunities for students with documented disabilities. Students who require disability services or reasonable accommodations must identify themselves as having a disability and provide current diagnostic documentation to Disability Support Services. All information is confidential. Please call 4483 or visit 150 Pullen Hall for more information.

This course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

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Lecture Outline

Aug. 30th, Week 1: Introduction to Ethnobotany and Basic Taxonomy

Sept. 6th, Week 2: History and Scope of Ethnobotany

Read: Cotton—Chapter 1 (handout), Martin—Introduction and Chapter 1

Sept. 13th, Week 3: Applied Ethnobotany—Cherokee Traditional Arts Revitalized

See website: www.rtcар.org and handout

Read: Martin—Chapter 8

Sept. 20th, Week 4: The Ecology of Ethnobotany—Kava and culture

Read: Martin—Chapter 2

Sept. 27th, Week 5: *EXAM 1*

Oct. 4th, Week 6: Cherokee Ethnobotany—Stickball, Spirits, Lore, Material Cultures

Oct. 11th, Week 7: Cherokee Ethnomedicine—Folk Magic, Narcotics, Stimulants

Oct. 18th, Week 8: Preparation for Lab: An introduction to Batik

Read: Martin—Chapter 3

Oct. 26th, Week 9: Nutritional Ethnobotany: Agriculture and foraging and wild foods

Nov. 1st, Week 10: *EXAM 2* and Individual Time for Paper Presentation

Nov. 8th, Week 11: Linguistic Ethnobotany—Botanical Classification and Ethics

Read: Martin—Chapter 7 and *Selected Guidelines*—Chapter 2 and 8

Nov. 15th, Week 12: Medicinal Ethnobotany and Ethnopharmacology

Nov. 22nd, Week 13: No class—Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 29th, Week 14: Research Methods in Ethnobotany—Etic and Emic Perspectives

Read: *Selected Guidelines*—Chapter 10

Dec. 6th, Week 15: Review for Final

Final Exam, December 10th: 11:15-1:45 pm, Compton 316

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Laboratory Outline

Aug. 31st, Week 1: Identifying medicinally and culturally important tree species: arboretum Read: *Selected guidelines*—Chapter 1 and 3

Sept. 7th, Week 2: Collecting and preparing herbarium plant specimens: herbarium
Read: *Selected guidelines*—Chapter 4 and 8

Sept. 14th, Week 3: Fieldtrip: Elk Ridge NatureWorks, Ron Boyer & Liz McDowell, Grantsville, MD, identifying and cultivating native medicinal plants

Sept. 21st, Week 4: Doctrine of Signatures collecting and preparing mushroom and moss specimens
Read: *Selected guidelines*—Chapter 6 and 7

Sept. 28th, Week 5: Sample plots and plot design for plant inventories
Read: *Selected guidelines*—Chapter 11, *Ethnobotany*—Chapter 5

Oct. 5th, Week 6: Individual Meetings about final projects

Oct. 12th, Week 7: Methods of interviewing, Sample ethnobotanical interviewing
Read: *Ethnobotany*—Chapter 4, *Selected guidelines*—Chapter 9
Laboratory Journals Due

Oct. 19th, Week 8: Guest presentation Valerie Fritz, plant dyeing of fibers

Oct. 26th, Week 9: Guest presentation Lori Senese, Honeysuckle Basket Weaving

Nov. 2nd, Week 10: Fieldtrip Honey Grace Farm, Oakland, MD, Medicine making
First Draft of Paper Due

Nov. 9th, Week 11: Winter plant identification at arboretum

Nov. 16th, Week 12: Fieldtrip Supermarket ethnobotany *Paper Due*

Nov. 23rd, Week 13: No Lab---Thanksgiving Break
Laboratory Journals Due 20th at 10am

Nov. 30th, Week 14: Lab starts at 3 pm Class Presentations—
Presentations Due and videotaped

Dec. 7th, Week 15: Class Presentations—*Presentations Due* and videotaped