

ANTHROPOLOGY 260: ETHNOBOTANY - PLANTS, PEOPLE & CULTURE

Fridays 8:30 to 11:20 am, Arts 120  
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Ethnobotany – the study of people’s classification, use and management of plants – is a diverse discipline that brings together the natural and social sciences. In this course, we’ll trace the beginnings of ethnobotany, examine its key principles and practices, and explore the many relationships between plants and peoples in cultures around the world, with an emphasis on the plants used for food, medicine, materials and spiritual purposes here in the Pacific Northwest.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The course consists of lectures supplemented by videos, slides, class activities and discussions. The lecture material will follow the themes of the assigned readings for each week, but will not repeat the specific material in the readings. You are responsible for material covered in the text as well as in lectures, videos, class activities and discussions. If you must miss a class, please get the lecture notes from a reliable classmate.

Your understanding of course content and concepts – and your final mark in the class – will be assessed as follows:

Midterm Exam	Friday, October 27	25%
Making it with Your Hands	Friday, November 10	20%
Plant Identification Quiz	Friday, November 17	10%
Poster Presentations	Friday, December 1	20%
Final Exam	Scheduled by registrar	25%

Final grades will be assigned according to UBC grading practices as outlined in the 2006/07 Calendar.

REQUIRED TEXT

Balick, Michael J. and Paul Alan Cox.  
1997 People, Plants, and Culture: The Science of Ethnobotany. Scientific American Library, W.H. Freeman and Company, New York.

## THINGS TO KNOW

As a university student, you have certain rights and responsibilities. One of those rights is to a safe and positive learning environment. To ensure this, my classroom runs on respect. Please show your respect by arriving on time and sitting quietly throughout the entire lecture. Those not willing to respect the rights of others will be asked to leave.

You also have a responsibility to act with honesty and integrity. Academic integrity includes acting honestly on exams as well as handing in original work that expresses your own perspectives while clearly crediting the ideas of others. For more information on academic integrity – and the process for dealing with academic dishonesty – check the 2006/07 UBC-O Calendar or visit <http://web.ubc.ca/okanagan/faculties/resources/academicintegrity.html>.

## LECTURE & READING SCHEDULE

<b>Week of</b>	<b>Lecture Topic &amp; Activity</b>	<b>Readings</b>
September 8	Introduction to the Course	
September 15	The Art & Science of Ethnobotany	Chapter 1 Handouts
September 22	Grocery Store Ethnobotany: Plant form and function	Handouts
September 29	Research Methods in Ethnobotany	Chapter 2: 46-52 Handouts
October 6	Ethnobotanists at Work: A Case Study	
October 13	Peoples & Plants of the Pacific Northwest	Reserve Readings
October 20	Peoples & Plants of the Pacific Northwest (continued)	Reserve Readings
October 27	First Farmers: Domesticated Plants in North America <b>Midterm Exam (25%)</b>	Chapter 3
November 3	Plants that Heal: Medicinal Plants	Chapter 2
November 10	Plants in Material Culture <b>Presentations – Making it with Your Hands (20%)</b>	Chapter 4
November 17	The Other World: Ritual & Spiritual Plants <b>Plant Identification Quiz (10%)</b>	Chapter 5
November 24	Ethnobotany & Conservation	Chapter 6
December 1	<b>Poster Presentations (20%)</b>	
Final Exam to be scheduled by Registrar (25%)		