

Syllabus
Plants and Civilization - BOT 300
Spring 2016

Instructor: Terry W. Henkel, Ph.D.
Office: Science Building B, Room 123
Telephone: 826-4841
Email: twh5@humboldt.edu
Office Hours: 1-3 Monday & Wednesday, or by appointment

Meeting time and place: Lecture - Mon/Wed 5-6:20 pm, Science B 135

Introduction: Plants and Civilization covers important plants and fungi utilized by humans. Another title for this course could be *Economic Botany*, which indeed is the title of our textbook. Because this is a scientific botany course, critical introductory sections will examine basic plant structure and reproduction and origins of agriculture. Having built the necessary fundamentals of botany in the introductory sections, we will take a detailed look at selected plants and other organisms used for food and other purposes. The course material will appeal to a wide variety of students as it fulfills an upper division Area B GE requirement. As well as learning economic botany, students will be able to evaluate scientific concepts and technology as they apply to human relationships with the natural world. In addition, students will be able to interpret scientific literature regarding economic botany and critically evaluate conclusions drawn from such sources.

Format: Two lectures per week, textbook reading assignments, outside reading and interpretation, and four lecture examinations.

Required Textbook: Simpson, B.B., & Ogorzaly, M.C. 2001. *Economic Botany, 3rd Edition*. McGraw Hill, Boston.

Moodle: Regular use of MOODLE is REQUIRED of all students in BOT 300. Lecture outlines, powerpoint presentations, handouts, reading assignments, announcements, and other items will be available (sometimes exclusively) through Moodle.

Weekly Schedule for Botany 300, Spring 2016

Week	Date	Topic	Textbook Readings
1	Jan 18	<i>No class - holiday</i>	Ch. 1, pp. 1-39
1	Jan 20	Plants and their manipulation by people	"
2	Jan 25	Plants and their manipulation by people	"
2	Jan 27	Plants and their manipulation by people	"
3	Feb 1	Origins of agriculture	Ch. 2, pp. 40-52
3	Feb 3	Origins of agriculture	"
4	Feb 8	Fruits & nuts of temperate regions	Ch. 3, pp. 53-74
4	Feb 10	Examination #1	
5	Feb 15	Fruits & nuts of temperate regions	"
5	Feb 17	Fruits & nuts of temperate regions	"
6	Feb 22	Fruits and nuts of warm regions	Ch. 4, pp. 75-106
6	Feb 24	Fruits and nuts of warm regions	"
7	Feb 29	Fruits and nuts of warm regions	"
7	Mar 2	Cereal grains	Ch. 5, pp. 105-135
8	Mar 7	Cereal grains	"
8	Mar 9	Examination #2	"
9	Mar 14-18	<i>No class - Spring Break</i>	"
10	Mar 21	Cereal grains	"
10	Mar 23	Cereal grains	"
11	Mar 28	Legumes	Ch. 6, pp. 136-154
11	Mar 30	Legumes	"
12	Apr 4	Food from leaves, stems, and roots	Ch. 7, pp. 155-191
12	Apr 6	Food from leaves, stems, and roots	"
13	Apr 11	Examination #3	
13	Apr 13	Fermented beverages	Ch. 14, pp. 332-354
14	Apr 18	Fermented beverages	"
14	Apr 20	Indigenous ethnobiology in Guyana	
15	Apr 25	Ethnomycology of fungal hallucinogens	
15	Apr 27	Psychoactive compounds from plants	Ch. 12, pp. 286-312
16	May 2	Psychoactive compounds from plants	"
16	May 4	Psychoactive compounds from plants	"
17	May 9	Final Examination – 3-4:50 pm	

Point Distribution	Points
Lecture Examination #1	100
Lecture Examination #2	100
Lecture Examination #3	100
Final Lecture Examination	150
Total points =	450

Exam Format: Exams will contain a variety of types of questions dealing with material covered in lecture, reading assignments from the textbook, and interpretation of additional outside readings. Questions may refer to material covered more thoroughly in the book than in lecture. Short and medium-length written answers, multiple-choice, true/false, matching, and other types of questions may be expected, as well as diagram labeling and interpretation.

Course Grades:

%	Grade	%	Grade
100-93	A	77.9-73	C
92.9-90	A-	72.9-70	C-
89.9-88	B+	69.9-68	D+
87.9-83	B	67.9-60	D
82.9-80	B-	59.9- 0	F
79.9-78	C+		

Curve: Grades will be scaled at the end of the semester based on the highest score achieved in the class (i.e. the highest score will form the 100% mark).

Student Learning Objectives - BOT 300 Plants and Civilization (Spring 2016; UD Area B GE):

1. Students will be able to organize and synthesize a large body of detailed body of information, and conceptualize from it, and incorporate aspects of human relationships with plants as hunter-gatherers, the early domestication of crop plants and the transition to agricultural means of subsistence, and the geographic origins, cultivation techniques, and production levels of food and other plants from temperate and tropical regions of the world.

2. Students will be able to use a definition of *applied science* to explain how *applied science* has changed the course of human civilization and the natural world in multiple significant ways.
3. Students will be able to use critical reading and thinking skills to interpret scientific literature regarding economic botany and critically evaluate conclusions drawn from such sources.
4. Students will be able to use cultural aspects of ethnically diverse human groups to interpret their relationships with the natural world, in particular plants gathered or cultivated, and how these relationships are influenced by environmental factors of the particular regions of inhabitation.
5. Students will be able to demonstrate an appreciation of the unique ethical standards necessary for performing ethnobotanical research with traditional groups of people.

Important Dates Spring 2016:

January 24: *Deadline* – Last day **ADD** open courses w/o instructor approval

February 15: *Deadline* – Last day to **ADD** courses by 11:59 pm with instructor approval; *Deadline* – Last day to **DROP** courses, by 11:59 pm; after this date a serious and compelling reason to drop is required, along with the instructor's & department chairs' signatures, a \$20 fee, and a "W" grade will be recorded; *Deadline* – Last day to change registered class grade option to **AUDIT**

March 14: *Deadline* – Last day to change registered class grade option to **CREDIT/NO CREDIT**

April 4: *Deadline* – Last day to **WITHDRAW** from a class with an approved serious & compelling reason (not eligible for fee refund). A \$20.00 fee is required and a "W" grade will be recorded.

For full important dates, see:

<http://pine.humboldt.edu/registrar/pdf/CalendarOfActivitiesS16.pdf>

Additional notes – Incompletes & Unofficial Withdrawals:

→An incomplete (I) is given only when extenuating circumstances prevent a student from completing work in the course; earlier exam scores stand unchanged. Per University policy, an “I” grade remaining incomplete after one year will automatically be changed to “F”.

→Students who stop attending and do not drop the class will not get an Incomplete. The latter will receive a grade of **Unofficial Withdrawal**. For the purposes of grade point average, a grade of “W” is equivalent to an “F”. In fact, a “W” may be worse than an “F” for those students who wish to repeat the course later. Petitions to replace a grade earned in this course with a better grade may be denied if the student has withdrawn from this course unofficially.