

Ethnobotany. Lecture 1

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Course in general

Description



Course description

The field of ethnobotany studies the uses of plants by humans. This course will focus on the diversity of plant uses, covering approaches of diverse cultures, including plant uses specific to North Dakota, especially plant uses of Native Americans. Objectives are that students:

- will have integral picture of plant uses and their respective cultural background/histories;
- will be able to analyze information accompanying different plant-based products (including pharmaceutical);
- will know basic principles of plant cultivation, useful plant identification and survival based on plant use.

Students will demonstrate this knowledge in a classroom presentation at the beginning of lectures. Laboratories will concentrate on plant cultivation, collection, identification and databasing.



Instructor

- Dr. Alexey Shipunov
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Lectures Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 1:00 p.m. to 1:50 a.m., Moore 213

Laboratories Thursdays 8:30 a.m. (field trip) or 9 a.m. (indoor) to 11:50 a.m. (indoor), J parking lot or Moore 213. There are six outdoor trips involving transportation within and/or out of town (three for every student, each trip counts as a double lab) which could last longer.

For the purpose of field trips, class is divided into **two sub-sections**. Your sub-section has a field trip every second week from September to the first half of October. Within the sub-section, we **work in pairs**. Apart from the field trip, **each pair have a weekday duty** of collection management. On Sundays, I will be on duty myself.



Textbook : None.

Reference texts : Several reference texts will be available on-line. However, lectures are the main source of information. In addition, every student must read and memorize the main concepts of the **Introductory Botany** textbook (available online).



Course Web site

© Shipunov, A. Ethnobotany [Electronic resource]. 2011—onwards.
Mode of access: http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol_310

BIOL 310: Ethnobotany



Course materials:

- [Syllabus](#) (PDF, 0.14 Mb)
- Reference: [Introduction to Botany \(textbook, draft\)](#) (PDF, 10 Mb)
- Reference: [P. Zhukovskij "Cultivated plants and their wild relatives"](#) (DjVu*, 3.5 Mb)

- [Lecture 1](#) (PDF, 4.4 Mb)
- [Old lectures](#) (2011)
- [Old lectures](#) (2013)

- [Guidelines for Ethnobotany projects](#) (PDF, 0.1 Mb)

* DjVu is similar to PDF, but much smaller in size and created in AT&T specifically for scanned books. To read it, download and install viewer from [here](#) (Windows and Mac OS) or [here](#) (for Windows, Mac OS and Linux).

[Back](#)

http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol_310/



Course in general

Grading



Exams

- **Four** exams are given during the semester.
- Only the **three best exams** contribute to the final grade.
- Missed exams count zero points. There are **no make-up** exams.



Labs

- Receiving zero points for more than one laboratory results in a **failed course**.
- Grading of laboratories is based either on reports or on the plant collection performance.
- Written reports and/or drawings are prepared and finished during laboratory sessions and passed to the instructor right after the particular laboratory session.



Absence

There are five legitimate reasons for absence:

- 1 emergency situations,
- 2 attested medical conditions,
- 3 military duty,
- 4 participation in MSU sports events,
- 5 dependent sick leave.

Absence from exams or laboratories must be announced to me in advance. I strongly recommend to attend lectures regularly since lectures are the main reference.



Presentations

- Every Wednesday lecture will start from a short (10 min / 8 slides) presentation(s) and degustation (tasting) of cultivated plant.
- Every student in a class will have a **project** including this presentation and tasting the plant of choice.
- Presentation is mandatory and counted as an exam.
- List of plants for presentations and guidelines will be available for download on the Web site.



Points

A total of ≈ 540 points can be earned and are distributed as follows:

Three best exams : ≤ 240 points (assuming 80 points per exam)

Presentation : ≤ 80 points

Laboratories : ≤ 240 points (20 points per lab \times 12 labs)

Grading points may vary between exams and labs.



Grades

- $A \geq 90\%$
- $B \geq 80\%$
- $C \geq 70\%$
- $D \geq 60\%$
- $F < 60\%$

A **minimum** of one letter grade will be deducted from the grade for academic dishonesty / plagiarism.



Ethnobotany

Introduction

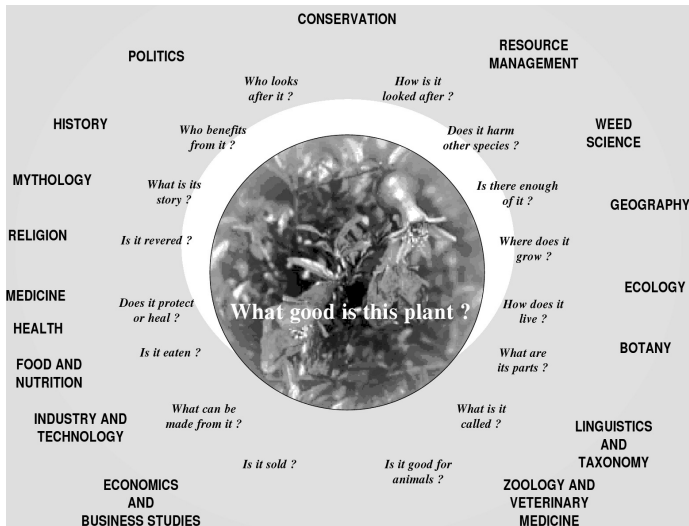


Ethnobotany in general

- Ethnobotany is not a “pure” science, it is a multidisciplinary approach on the boundary of botany, genetics, evolution, history, anthropology and sociology
- It may be taught in strikingly different ways, and each ethnobotany course is different
- We will concentrate on plant uses along with evolutionary and historical aspects, and will emphasize the use of plants by Native Americans and useful prairie plants of North Dakota



Ethnobotanical matrix



Homework

- Download project guidelines, choose **3** plants
- Also, create your 4-digit class ID
- I will collect these on the next lecture



Summary

- Ethnobotany is a compound science including all aspects of plant use.



For Further Reading



A. Shipunov.

Ethnobotany [Electronic resource].

2011—onwards.

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