

BIOLOGY 334 – PLANTS AND PEOPLE Spring 2016

Department of Biology, University of Victoria

Course description: Units: 1.5, Hours: 3-0

An overview of plants as used by people for food, fiber, drugs, and other materials. Aspects of plant biology are also looked at as to how they relate to the uses of plants.

Note: Credit for this course will not be counted toward degree programs in Biology, but Biology students may take this course as an elective (but not as a science elective).

Prerequisite: Third-year standing.

Instructor: Dr. Lynn Yip

Office hours: Tuesdays 1:30-2:30, Cunningham 162a, or by appointment

email: lynnyip@uvic.ca

Lectures: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays 8:30-9:20 am., HSD A240

Required text: *Plants and Society*, 7th Edition (2016), by Estelle Levetin and Karen McMahon, McGraw-Hill, Available at the UVic bookstore. The 6th edition is acceptable and page numbers for reading will be given accordingly. Four copies of the 6th edition are on Reserve at the library.

Please bring to class a device that lets you access the internet (phone, tablet, laptop).

Evaluation:

Midterm I - Friday, January 29, 2016 30 % Midterm II - Friday, March 4, 2016 35 %

Final Exam (final exam period, date TBA) 35 %

Exam and Grading Policy:

No electronic devices will be permitted during any exam.

Midterms cannot be deferred. If you must miss a midterm for a valid, documented reason (documented illness, accident, family affliction, or sporting commitments as a UVic athlete), your final mark will be calculated on the basis of the other completed components of the course, and you will not incur any penalty. If you miss two midterms, you cannot complete the course and you will not be allowed to write the final.

The final exam can be deferred if missed for a valid reason (documented illness, accident, family affliction, or sporting commitments as a UVic athlete). The UVic rule is that deferred exams are normally written during the last three working days of July, although other arrangements can be made in exceptional situations.

If you expect to miss a midterm or final for any of the above reasons, please notify me beforehand and produce supporting documentation. If you are not able to give prior notice, get in touch with me as soon as you are able. Travel plans are not a valid reason for missing any exam. No supplemental final exam is given in this course.

In determining the letter grades for the course, percentages will be converted to letter grades as below. Fractional percentages will be rounded up when the number is 0.09 or less from a cutoff point. For example, 78.90 is a B+, but 78.91-79.99 is an A-

Grading system: Percentages converted to letter grades

A+ 90-100	A 85-89	A- 80-84	B+ 77-79	B 73-76	B- 70-72
C+ 65-69	C 60-64	D 50-59	F 0-49		

BIOLOGY 334 PLANTS AND PEOPLE Tentative Syllabus, Spring Semester, 2016, 8:30-9:20 T, W, F

DATE	DAY	LECTURE TOPIC	
Jan. 5	T	Introduction	
Jan. 6	W	Coffee and teas	
Jan. 8	F	Chocolate and other beverages	
Jan. 12	T	Alcoholic beverages	
Jan. 13	W	Poisonous and medicinal plants	
Jan. 15	F	Medicinal plants	
Jan. 19	T	Psychoactive plants	
Jan. 20	W	Spices!	
Jan. 22	F	Vegetable oils	
Jan. 26	T	Fruits and vegetables	
Jan. 27	W	Fruits and vegetables	
Jan. 29	F	EXAM I	30% mark
Feb. 2	T	Legumes (beans and soy)	
Feb. 3	W	Guest Lecture: the story of melons	
Feb. 5	F	Nuts and berries	
		READING BREAK	
Feb. 16	T	Ancient grains	
Feb. 17	W	Gluten, no gluten	
Feb. 19	F	Guest lecture: Trees and people	
Feb. 23	T	Wood, paper and cork	
Feb. 24	W	Fibers and bamboo	
Feb. 26	F	Algae and colloids	
Mar. 1	T	Perfumes, dyes and tannins	
Mar. 2	W	Gums, latex and rubber	
Mar. 4	F	EXAM II	35% mark
Mar. 8	T	GM plants and food	
Mar. 9	W	Topic of choice	
Mar. 11	F	Summary and Discussion	
Mar. 15	T	Origin of agriculture	
Mar. 16	W	Domestication of grains	
Mar. 18	F	Domestication of grains	
Mar. 22	T	Guest Lecture: Sustainable food	
Mar. 23	W	Guest Lecture	
Mar. 25	F	GOOD FRIDAY HOLIDAY	
Mar. 29	T	Intro to ethnobotany	
Mar. 30	W	Kincentric ecology	
Apr. 1	F	Northwest coast food cultivation	
		FINAL EXAM	35% mark, cumulative

