

**BIOLOGY 334 – PLANTS AND PEOPLE**  
**Spring 2019**  
**Department of Biology, University of Victoria**

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

The course is an overview of plants as used by people. Plants are important parts of our lives and environment. They provide us most obviously with food, medicine and physical materials, but here are many other interesting uses. The harvest and cultivation of plants have significant impacts on our planet. We will look at current topics in plant-people interactions as well as aspects of plant biology as to how they relate to the usefulness 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.

**Course philosophy:** The course is intended to cover the biology, evolution and history of some economic plants important in western societies. It is not my intention to duplicate courses that discuss First Nations' or non-western uses of plants.

**Instructors: Patrick von Aderkas and Lynn Yip**

Dr. Yip's office hours: by appointment, Cunningham 162a

email: [lynnyip@uvic.ca](mailto:lynnyip@uvic.ca)

Dr. von Aderkas' office hours: Tuesdays 9:30-10:30, Petch 052a

250 721 8925 (telephone & voice mail)

Website – <http://web.uvic.ca/~pvonader/>

email: [biol334@uvic.ca](mailto:biol334@uvic.ca)

**Lectures:**

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays 8:30-9:20 p.m., HSD A240

**Required text:** *Plants and Society*, Seventh Edition (2015), by Estelle Levetin and Karen McMahon, McGraw-Hill, Available in the UVic bookstore: \$149.75 (We talked the publisher down from \$228 !).

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** For Dr. Yip's part of the course (the first half) please bring a device to class that allows you to access the internet (e.g. phone, tablet, laptop). It will allow you to participate in the Socrative classroom real-time interactive response system.

Outlines of all lectures will be posted to CourseSpaces. Students are responsible for ALL material discussed in lecture and some of this may not be in the outlines.

**Evaluation:**

Midterm 1 - Wednesday, January 30, 2018	30 %
Midterm 2 - Friday, March 8, 2018	30 %
Final Exam (final exam period, date TBA)	40 %

### **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 before the exam if possible and produce supporting documentation upon your return. 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.

All grades at UVic are submitted as percentiles. The academic transcript will include the percentile grade and a letter grade. Percentiles will be rounded to the nearest whole number; a grade of xx.5 will be rounded up.

**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

### **Important dates in the Spring Term 2018**

**January 20, Sunday:** Last day for 100% reduction of second term fees for standard courses. 50% of tuition fees will be assessed for courses dropped after this date.

For non-standard courses see [www.registrar.uvic.ca](http://www.registrar.uvic.ca)

**January 23, Wednesday:** Last day for adding this course.

**January 31, Thursday:** Last day for paying second-term fees without financial penalty.

**February 10, Sunday:** Last day to drop courses for a 50% reduction of tuition fees.

100% of tuition fees will be assessed for this course dropped after this date.

**February 18, Monday:** Family Day Holiday

**February 18-22:** Reading Break

**February 28, Tuesday:** Last day for withdrawing from this course without penalty of failure.

**April 5, Friday:** Last day of class in the second term.

**April 8-27:** Exam period

**April 19:** Good Friday holiday

**April 22:** Easter Monday holiday

**Tentative Lecture Schedule**  
**Lecture schedule is subject to change: Please watch CourseSpaces**

<b>Lecture Number</b>	<b>Day &amp; Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>WEEK 1 (January 7-11)</b>		
1	T 8	Introduction
2	W 9	Coffee, tea and chocolate
3	F 11	Medicinal plants
<b>WEEK 2 (January 14-18)</b>		
4	T 15	The Potato
5	W 16	Legumes
6	F 18	Spices
<b>WEEK 3 (January 21-25)</b>		
7	T 22	Ethnobotany
8	W 23	Native food plants
9	F 25	Cotton/Fibers
<b>WEEK 4 (January 28-Feb 1)</b>		
10	T 29	Rubber and latex
	<b>W 30</b>	<b>Midterm I – 30 %</b>
11	F 1	Tannins
<b>WEEK 5 (February 4-8)</b>		
12	T 5	Seaweeds
13	W 6	GMO plants
14	F 8	Gluten/no gluten
<b>WEEK 6 (February 11-15)</b>		
15	T 12	the amazing grasses
16	W 13	what is happening with agriculture
17	F 15	topic of choice: possibly psychoactive plants
<b>WEEK 7 (February 18-22) Reading Break</b>		

Lecture No.	Day/Date	Topic
<b>WEEK 8 (February 25-March 1)</b>		
18	T 26	Tobacco
19	W 27	Tomatoes & Peppers
20	F 1	Olive Oil
<b>WEEK 9 (March 4-8)</b>		
21	T 5	TBA
22	W 6	Beer
	<b>F 8</b>	<b>Midterm II (30 %)</b>
<b>WEEK 10 (March 11-15)</b>		
23	T 12	Wine I
24	W 13	Wine II
25	F 15	600 years of Getting Plastered on Vodka.
<b>WEEK 11 (March 18-22)</b>		
26	T 19	Madame Geneva
27	W 20	Plants as Symbols of High Art
28	F 22	Plants as Symbols of Vulgarly
<b>WEEK 12 (March 25-29)</b>		
29	T 26	Citizen Wheat
30	W 27	The Burning Canefields
31	F 29	Birth of the Third World
<b>WEEK 13 (April 1-5)</b>		
32	T 2	Botanical Barriers
33	W 3	Gardening
34	F 5	Gardens of Victoria
<b>FINAL EXAM (40 %)</b>		