

# Plants & People

Tue/Wed/Fri 8:30 am | pvonader@uvic.ca | 250-721-8925



Plants dominate the world and they dominate our cuisine. This course will explore how plants influence people, to the point of dominating our lives, even our politics. The vegetables we push around our plates have strange histories. Stimulants have even stranger histories. You may very well ask yourself, “What’s coming next?” Our relationships with plants is super-dynamic. It ranges from farmers squeezing profits out of simple cash crops, to rogue governments looking to their farmers for crops that will pay the military bills. Plants are freighted with symbolism. Some are buried deep in religion. Plants weave their way into our music and poetry, yet others are the target of derision and hatred, causing people to protest en masse. Food riots are always plant food riots. Famines are always due to mismanaged food supplies. And yes, plants can make us laugh, too. There will be lots to discuss.

January '21

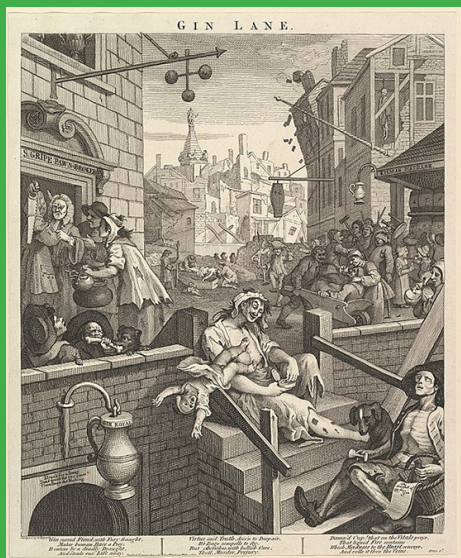
## First 10 Lectures



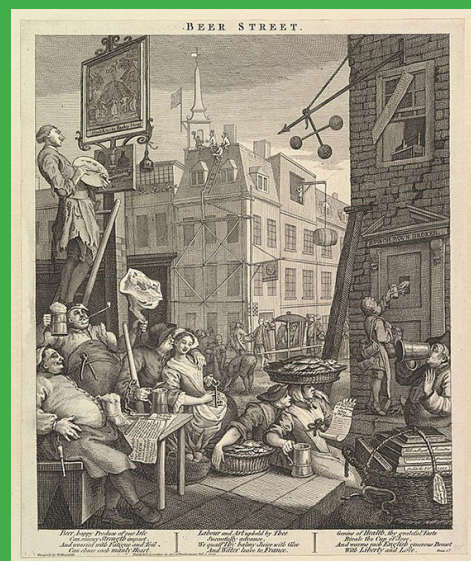
## 1. WINE



## 3. GIN



## 4. BEER



## 5. TEA, COFFEE, CHOCOLATE



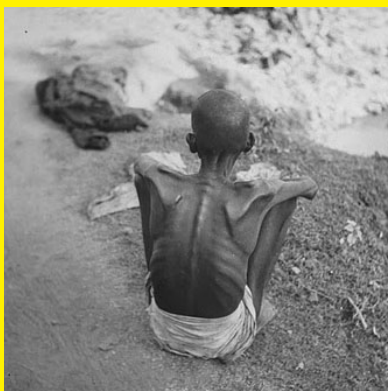


6. HOT BEVERAGES

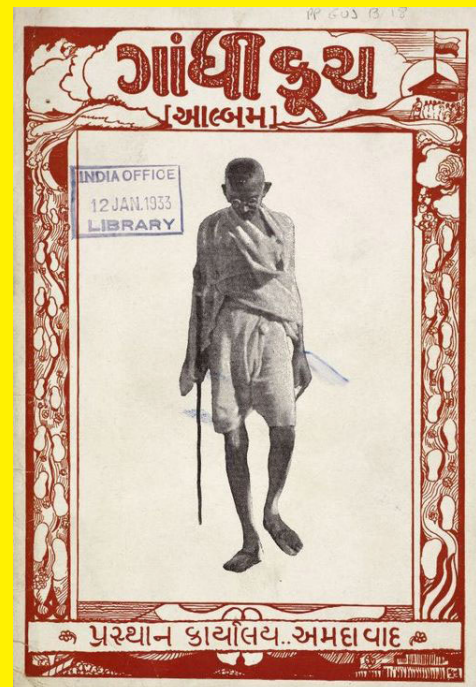


7. SUGAR

8. COTTON



9. DEARTH



10. BOTANICAL BARRIERS

## **Readings from Plants and Society for First 10 lectures**

### **Lecture 1 – wine**

**7th edition – 432-439**

**8th edition – 447-454**

### **Lecture 2 – vodka**

**7th edition – 442-449 (including A  
Closer Look: Alcohol & Health)  
you do not need to read Fungi as Food)**

**8th edition – 457-465 (including A  
Closer Look: Alcohol & Health)  
you do not need to read Fungi as  
Food)**

### **Lecture 3 – gin**

**None**

### **Lecture 4 – beer**

**7th edition - 439-441**

**8th edition - 454-457**

### **Lecture 5 – tea, coffee & chocolate**

**7th edition - Chapter 16**

**8th edition - Chapter 16**

### **Lecture 6 – hot beverages**

**7th and 8th editions – Chapter 16  
(same as for tea, coffee & chocolate)**

### **Lecture 7 – sugar**

**7th edition – 53-54 (A Closer Look:  
Sugar & Slavery);  
277 (The high price of chocolate); 303  
(The cotton gin); 302 (Table 18.2)  
8th edition – 53-54 (A Closer Look:  
Sugar & Slavery);  
286-287 (The high price of chocolate);  
313-314 (The cotton gin)  
314 (Table 18.2)**

### **Lecture 8 – cotton**

**7th - 302-305**

**8th – 312-315**

### **Lecture 9 – dearth**

**None**

### **Lecture 10 – botanical barriers**

**None**



**Important:** Information in readings is testable. For any lecture that has assigned readings, 20 % of the questions on a quiz will be from the readings. The questions are usually obvious.

# COURSE DETAILS

**Instructor:** Patrick von Aderkas, Professor **Email:** pvonader@uvic.ca

**Teaching Assistant:** Konrad Suesser **Email:** ksuesser@uvic.ca

There are no face-to-face office hours. However, there are Live Learn sessions via ZOOM each and every Friday, which in addition to polls, practice questions and other things, will provide an opportunity to ask any questions. If it's personal, feel free to email one of us.

**Prerequisite:** Minimum third-year standing. If you are a Biology Major this is a reminder that Plants and People is a science elective for everyone *except* Biology majors for whom it is an elective.

**Course philosophy:** The course is intended to cover the biology, evolution and history of some economic and non-economic plants important in western societies. It is not my intention to duplicate courses at UVic that cover First Nations' or non-western uses of plants. Throughout this course, you will be challenged to consider your own relationship with plants and how they influence your view of the world around you.

## Expectation in terms of number of hours per week

Listening to lectures – an hour to an hour-and-a-half per week total

Reading – varies by week from none to, very rarely, a couple of chapters

Packback – one to two hours, depending



Georges Seurat: Sunday Afternoon on La Grande Jatte



Social Distancing on La Grande Jatte

## What you need to purchase

**Required text:** Levetin and McMahon—Plants and Society. McGraw-Hill. Either the seventh (2015) or eighth edition (2020) is acceptable. Bookstore price for a new text is \$137.95 (8th edn.); bookstore price of the electronic version [180 day] is \$69

**Packback:** It costs \$25.

## What you need to know about evaluation and grading

### *Mark breakdown*

|                                    |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Participation (Packback-regulated) | 16  |
| Quizzes                            | 84  |
| Total                              | 100 |

**The Quiz mark** is based on the best four out of five quizzes. Therefore, each quiz is worth 21 %. There is no Final Exam in this course.

**Packback:** For most of you this is something completely new. You should think of it as an “ideas lab”. It is designed to help teach you to ask – and answer – questions in an academic fashion. This platform is integrated into Brightspace and will be monitored by myself and Konrad to help students. You will soon realize that learning how to properly construct good questions opens up a lot of the underlying issues in how we understand plants, not to mention our relationship to plants.

Packback is required for participation mark. Beginning in the second week, you are required to post one question and answer two questions. You must reach a curiosity score of 60%. The Packback exercise is due at 17:00 each Friday afternoon.

### **Missing a quiz:**

If you expect to miss a quiz for any reasons, please notify me and we will work out alternative arrangements. If you are not able to give prior notice, get in touch with me as soon as you are able.

All grades at UVic are submitted as percentiles, which is how it will appear on the academic transcript. Percentiles above 0.5 % will be rounded up.

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



**Schedule of Quizzes, Live Learn sessions (yellow), Packback due dates (green)  
+ tentative line-up of Podcast subject titles (subject to change)**

| No. | Day                   | Date              | Title                   | Reading | Packback   |
|-----|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|---------|------------|
|     | Tuesday               | January 12, 2021  | Introduction            |         |            |
| 1   | Wednesday             | January 13, 2021  | Wine                    | Y       |            |
| 2   | Wednesday             | January 13, 2021  | Vodka                   | Y       |            |
|     | Friday                | January 15, 2021  | Live Learn              |         |            |
| 3   | Tuesday               | January 19, 2021  | Gin                     | N       |            |
| 4   | Tuesday               | January 19, 2021  | Beer                    | Y       |            |
| 5   | Wednesday             | January 20, 2021  | Tea, coffee & chocolate | Y       |            |
|     | Friday                | January 22, 2021  | Live Learn              |         | Packback-1 |
|     | Tuesday               | January 26, 2021  | <b>QUIZ No. 1</b>       |         |            |
| 6   | Wednesday             | January 27, 2021  | Hot beverages           | Y       |            |
| 7   | Wednesday             | January 27, 2021  | Sugar                   | Y       |            |
|     | Friday                | January 29, 2021  | Live Learn              |         | Packback-2 |
| 8   | Tuesday               | February 2, 2021  | Cotton                  | Y       |            |
| 9   | Wednesday             | February 3, 2021  | Dearth                  | N       |            |
| 10  | Wednesday             | February 3, 2021  | Botanical barriers      | N       |            |
|     | Friday                | February 5, 2020  | Live Learn              |         | Packback-3 |
|     | Tuesday               | February 9, 2021  | <b>QUIZ No. 2</b>       |         |            |
| 11  | Wednesday             | February 10, 2021 | Psychoactive plants     | Y       |            |
| 12  | Wednesday             | February 10, 2021 | Opioids                 | Y       |            |
|     | Friday                | February 12, 2021 | Live Learn              |         | Packback-4 |
|     | <b>February 15-19</b> |                   | <b>READING BREAK</b>    |         |            |
| 13  | Tuesday               | February 23, 2021 | Marijuana               | Y       |            |
| 14  | Wednesday             | February 24, 2021 | Poisonous plants        | Y       |            |
| 15  | Wednesday             | February 24, 2021 | Plants in medicine      | Y       |            |
|     | Friday                | February 26, 2021 | Live Learn              |         | Packback-5 |
|     | Tuesday               | March 2, 2021     | <b>QUIZ No. 3</b>       |         |            |
| 16  | Wednesday             | March 3, 2021     | Tulips                  | N       |            |
| 17  | Wednesday             | March 3, 2021     | Orchids                 | N       |            |
|     | Friday                | March 5, 2021     | Live Learn              |         | Packback-6 |
| 18  | Tuesday               | March 9, 2021     | Citrus fruit            | Y       |            |
| 19  | Wednesday             | March 10, 2021    | Pineapple and avocado   | Y       |            |
| 20  | Wednesday             | March 10, 2021    | Pine trees              | Y       |            |
|     | Friday                | March 12, 2021    | Live Learn              |         | Packback-7 |
| 21  | Tuesday               | March 16, 2021    | Olive oil               | N       |            |
|     | Wednesday             | March 17, 2021    | <b>QUIZ No. 4</b>       |         |            |
| 22  | Friday                | March 19, 2021    | GMO-1                   | Y       | Packback-8 |
| 23  | Tuesday               | March 23, 2021    | GMO-2                   | Y       |            |
| 24  | Wednesday             | March 24, 2021    | Tomatoes and peppers    | Y       |            |
| 25  | Wednesday             | March 24, 2021    | Tobacco                 | Y       |            |
|     | Friday                | March 26, 2021    | Live Learn              |         | Packback-9 |
| 26  | Tuesday               | March 30, 2021    | Potato                  | Y       |            |

|    |           |                      |                       |   |             |
|----|-----------|----------------------|-----------------------|---|-------------|
| 27 | Wednesday | March 31, 2021       | Sunflower             | N |             |
|    | Thursday  | April 1, 2021        |                       |   | Packback-10 |
|    |           | <b>April 2, 2021</b> | <b>Good Friday</b>    |   |             |
|    |           | <b>April 5, 2021</b> | <b>Easter Monday</b>  |   |             |
| 28 | Tuesday   | April 6, 2021        | TBA                   |   |             |
|    | Wednesday | April 7, 2021        | <b>QUIZ No. 5</b>     |   |             |
|    | Friday    | April 9, 2021        | Course Wrap-up & Poll |   |             |



### Important dates in the Spring Term 2021

**January 19, Tuesday:** 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.

**January 22, Friday:** Last day for adding this course.

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

**February 9, Tuesday:** 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 15, Monday:** Family Day Holiday

**February 15-19:** Reading Break

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

**April 2, Good Friday:** Holiday

**April 5, Easter Monday:** Holiday

**April 12, Monday:** Last day of class in the second term.

**April 15, Thursday:** Exam period begins

**April 27, Saturday:** Exam period ends