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.
First 10 Lectures

January '21

1. WINE

2. GIN

3. BEER

4. 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)
  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
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
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<th>No.</th>
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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