

Field Botany: Urban Botany - Biology 4001

Lecture: TBA

Office hours: TBA

Lab: TBA

Office hours: weeks 1-5: TBA; week #6: TBA

Office hours: TBA

Office hours will be held through Blackboard on the discussion boards and email, with the instructor availability during that hour. For video meetings, email to arrange ahead of time if needed.

Time for class meeting:

Lecture - TBA

Lab - TBA

All course meetings and assignments submissions will be through Blackboard. There is a combined Blackboard site for all the course sections.

Course Concept:

Since we live in an urban environment with many trees, shrubs, and flower plantings this course is designed so that each student will always be able to walk down the street and have some familiarity with their environs. To that end, each student will learn to identify approximately 50-60 trees and shrubs and know them by their common name, scientific name and family, as well as some annuals and perennials commonly used as bedding plants. Students will learn some basic botanical concepts, which are used in plant identification, such as botanical structural features used in phylogeny and taxonomy of plants. In addition to this, students will get an overview of the ecological and economic aspects specific to urban botany.

Required Materials:

All materials will be available through the course site and Blackboard.

Readings:

Will be available on the course site and Blackboard.

Excerpts from the following books are included in the reading. The whole book is available to you though the Brooklyn College Library in the EBSCO eBook database. You may read the whole book if you would like by logging in though the library proxy. The files with the readings are available on the course site.

Adams BC. *Cool Plants for Cold Climates : A Garden Designer's Perspective*. Fairbanks, AK: University of Alaska Press; 2017

Cullen J. *Practical Plant Identification : Including a Key to Native and Cultivated Flowering Plants in North Temperate Regions*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press; 2006. **
Plant identification book with a dichotomous key. May be useful to you when identifying an unknown plant.

Fogden M, Fogden P. *The Natural History of Flowers*. Vol First edition. College Station: Texas A&M University Press; 2018.

Gargiullo MB. *A Guide to Native Plants of the New York City Region*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press; 2007 ** Local plants!

Gledhill D. *The Names of Plants*. Vol 4th ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 2008.

Ingrouille M, Eddie B. *Plants : Diversity and Evolution*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 2006.

Spencer R, Lumley PF, Cross R, Royal Botanic Gardens (Vic.). *Plant Names : A Guide to Botanical Nomenclature*. Vol 3rd ed. Collingwood, Vic: CSIRO Publishing; 2007.

Lecture and Lab.

Lab assignment: 5 extensive plant profiles with drawings of Urban plants – Due TBA

Wk1: What is botany? How does it relate to the urban environment? Plant morphology.

Lecture Readings for topic.

Weekly Prompt.

Lab recitation Quiz 1 due.

Wk2: Taxonomy and phylogeny

Lecture Weekly Prompt.

Lecture Readings for topic.

Lab recitation

Quiz 2 due.

Wk3: Ecology and economy of urban plants

Lecture Weekly Prompt.

Lecture Readings for topic.

Lab recitation

Quiz 3 due.

Wk4: Urban Trees and shrubs
Lecture Weekly Prompt.
Lecture Readings for topic.
Lab recitation **Assignment due** Quiz 4 due.

Wk5: Urban Annuals and Perennials
Lecture Weekly Prompt.
Lecture Readings for topic.
Lab recitation
Quiz 5 due Sunday.

Wk6: Reviews and Final exam.
Lecture -review **Assignment revision due**

Final Exam: TBA – 1 hour – Multiple choice and short answer

Course site contains:

Syllabus and course schedule.

A pdf file ("Collection Packet"), which is a manual that provides leaf outlines and descriptions of each of the trees and shrubs in the course site.

Power point content lecture files with botanical information to use for exam study on the course site.

Readings for each week in PDF format.

Assignment instructions, template, checklist and rubric. The assignment must be submitted through Blackboard.

An excel file ("Plants on Exam") with a list of all the trees, shrubs, annuals and perennials on the exam.

Available on Blackboard:

Discussion boards for online interaction, resources and office hours.

Online class meetings will be through Blackboard collaborate.

Lecture slides.

Recording of the lecture after class is over for the day.

All quizzes and the final exam.

Course Requirements:

During the 6-week summer session there will be 10 online lectures on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and 5 lab sessions on Thursdays through Blackboard collaborate for which attendance is mandatory.

For each week there will be readings assigned and a 20-minute quiz given on the content of the lecture that week and the associated reading. Quizzes are available from Monday to Sunday on the week they are open and can be taken multiple times. Lab Plant reports.

Assignments:

Five plant profiles with images of pressed plants according to pressing and preparation instructions and a two-page written profile for it in the same style as the packet. References are to be submitted on a separate additional page. A photo of your pressed plant according to guidelines given. Drawings must be included of the following: Leaves, habit, bark (if applicable), flowers (If applicable). You may add photographic images to this, but they are not a replacement for the drawings.

Which urban street plant you choose is up to you, as long as you can collect and press a sample of it.

Plant Profiles are due: End of day **of TBA**. Late submission will affect your grade. You may submit it early. They must be submitted in PDF format.

If you do not get the full credit for the assignment, you may re-submit the revised profile by the end of day: **TBA**.

Quizzes will be based on the topics of the lecture and readings for the week they are given.

Final exam:

Each student will take a multiple-choice final exam on image identification of the 60 plants in the collection packet plus the 10 annuals on the list. The exam will have images of plants for you to identify.

Course Grading:

The grading in the course will be based on the following:

- 6 Percent each (30 percent total) - Plant reports (Based on Rubric)
- 15 Percent – Discussions (Based on rubric)
- 10 Percent – Lab participation (Based on rubric)
- 20 percent - Final multiple-choice exam
- 5 percent each for weekly quizzes (25 percent total).

There is no curve.

Any plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment.

Plant reports will not be accepted late without a documented excuse.

You will have one week after the plant reports are graded to correct them based on feedback for an improved grade.

Grading scale is as follows:

A+ = 100+

A = 90-100

B = 80-90

C = 70-80

D = 60-70

F = Below 60

Honors/ Extra credit:

For Honors credit in the class, prepare Three additional plant profiles on plants of your choice. (No points only Honors credit)

For Extra credit, prepare One additional plant profile on plants of your choice. (5 points). Additional profiles will not be accepted for extra credit.

Center for Disability Notice:

In order to receive disability-related academic accommodations students must first be registered with the Center for Student Disability Services. Students who have a documented disability or suspect they may have a disability are invited to set up an appointment with the Director of the Center for Student Disability Services, Ms. Valerie Stewart-Lovell at (718) 951-5538. If you have already registered with the Center for Student Disability Services, please provide your professor with the course accommodation form and discuss your specific accommodation with him/her.

University's policy on Academic Integrity:

The faculty and administration of Brooklyn College support an environment free from cheating and plagiarism. Each student is responsible for being aware of what constitutes cheating and plagiarism and for avoiding both. The complete text of the CUNY Academic Integrity Policy and the Brooklyn College procedure for policy implementation can be found at www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/policies. If a faculty member suspects a violation of academic integrity and, upon investigation, confirms that violation, or if the student admits the violation, the faculty member MUST report the violation.