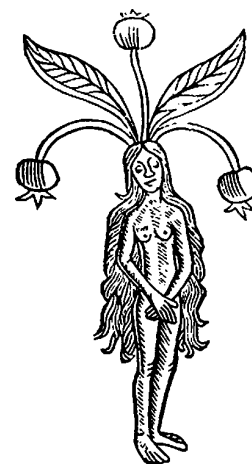


BIOL 310 —Ethnobotany (4 credits)

Alexey Shipunov

Spring 2011



SYLLABUS

Class Dates : January 12 to May 12, 2011

Course Description :

The field of ethnobotany studies the uses of plants by humans. This course will focus on the diversity of plant uses, covering approaches of diverse cultures, including plant uses specific to North Dakota, especially plant uses of Native Americans. Objectives are that students will have integral picture of plant uses and their respective cultural background/histories; will be able to analyze information accompanying different plant-based products (including pharmaceutical); will know basic principles of plant cultivation, useful plant identification and survival based on plant use. Students will demonstrate this knowledge in a classroom presentation at the beginning of each lab. Laboratories will concentrate on plant cultivation and identification as well as on theoretical ethnobotany (e.g., origin and evolution of cultivated plants and folk classification).

Instructor : Dr. Alexey Shipunov

Office : Moore 229

Office Hours : Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 12 a.m.

Phone : 858-3116

E-mail : alexey.shipunov@minotstateu.edu

Lectures : Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m., Moore 213

Textbook : The main source are lectures. Two books will be used for reference:

1. P. M. Zhukovskij. *Cultivated plants and their wild relatives*. Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux, 1962.
2. M. Heinrich and others. *Fundamentals of pharmacognosy and phytotherapy*. Churchill Livingstone, 2004.

Laboratories : Thursdays 9:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m., Moore 213 (there will be also outdoor and greenhouse labs)

Grading :

Four exams are given during the semester. Only the three best exams contribute to the final grade. Missed exams count zero points. There are no make-up exams.

There are five legitimate reasons for absence: (1) emergency situations, (2) attested medical conditions, (3) military duty, (4) participation in MSU sports events, and (5) dependent sick leave. Absence from exams or laboratories needs to be announced to the instructor in advance. I strongly recommend to attend lectures regularly since lectures are the main reference text.

Receiving zero points for more than one laboratory results in a failed course. Grading of laboratories is based on reports and/or drawings. Written reports and/or drawings are prepared and finished during laboratory sessions and passed to the instructor right after the particular laboratory session.

Every lab (except first) will start from short 10 min presentation and practical demonstration of some cultivated plant. Every student in a class should prepare presentation individually. Presentation is obligatory and counted as a fifth exam.

A total of 580 points can be earned and are distributed as follows (grading points may vary):

Three best exams : 300 points

Presentation : 100 points

Laboratories : 180 points (15 points per lab)

Letter Grades : A \geq 90%, B \geq 80%, C \geq 70% D \geq 60%, F < 60%. A minimum of one letter grade will be deducted from the grade for academic dishonesty / plagiarism.

Tentative Course Schedule :

| | | |
|---------|-------------------|--|
| Week 1 | Jan 12, 14 | Introduction, classification, main food source plants; Lab 1 |
| Week 2 | Jan 19, 21 | Main food source plants; no lab |
| Week 3 | Jan 24, 26, 28 | Main food source plants; Lab 2 |
| Week 4 | Jan 31, Feb 2 | Centers of origin; sugar and oil plants; no lab |
| " | | 1st exam: February 4th |
| Week 5 | Feb 7, 9, 11 | Sugar and oil plants; Lab 3 |
| Week 6 | Feb 14, 16, 18 | Fruit and vegetable plants; Lab 4 |
| Week 7 | Feb 23, 25 | Fruit and vegetable plants; Lab 5 |
| Week 8 | Feb 28, Mar 1 | Fruit and vegetable plants; no lab |
| " | | 2nd exam: March 4th |
| Week 9 | Mar 7, 9, 11 | Fruit and vegetable plants; no lab |
| Week 10 | | <i>Spring break</i> |
| Week 11 | Mar 21, 23, 25 | Aromatic plants (herbs and spices); Lab 6 |
| Week 12 | Mar 28, 30, Apr 1 | Medicinal plants; Lab 7 |
| Week 13 | Apr 4, 6, 8 | Medicinal plants; Lab 8 |
| Week 14 | Apr 11, 13, 15 | Medicinal plants; Lab 9 |
| Week 15 | Apr 18 | Medicinal plants; Lab 10 |
| " | | 3rd exam: April 20 |
| Week 16 | Apr 25, 27, 29 | Technical plants; Lab 11 |
| Week 17 | May 2, 4, 6 | Ornamental plants; Lab 12 |
| Week 18 | | 4th Exam: Thursday May 12, 9:00–9:50 a.m. |