

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 introduction to medicinal plants, plant uses specific to North Dakota, and Native American plant use. Students will have the 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. They will demonstrate this knowledge in a classroom presentation at the beginning of lectures. Laboratories will concentrate on plant cultivation, identification, collection and databases.

Central Concepts :

All aspects of plant use.

Instructor : Dr. Alexey Shipunov

Office : Moore 229

Office Hours : Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 11:50 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 210

Textbook : **None**. However, several reference text will be available on-line

Web site : http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol_310/

Please note that lecture slides from the Web site are **not** containing all information which is given on lectures.

Laboratories : Thursdays 9:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m., Moore 213

We also will have greenhouse labs and outdoor excursions.

Grading :

Four equal 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. Written reports are prepared and finished during laboratory sessions and passed to the instructor right after the particular laboratory session.

Every Wednesday lecture will start from a short 10 min presentation and practical testing of cultivated plant. Every student in a class should prepare presentation individually. Presentation is mandatory and counted as an exam.

A total of ≈ 540 points can be earned and are distributed as follows (grading points may vary):

Three best exams : ≈ 300 points

Presentation : ≈ 100 points

Laboratories : 240 points (20 points per lab)

Letter Grades : A $\geq 90\%$, B $\geq 80\%$, C $\geq 70\%$ D $\geq 60\%$, F $< 60\%$.

Academic Honesty : Honesty and integrity are central to academic life at Minot State University. Cheating may affect the student in accordance with the grading policy: a **minimum** of one letter grade will be deducted from the grade for academic dishonesty / plagiarism.

Disability Needs : In coordination with Disability Support services, reasonable accommodations will be provided for qualified students with disabilities. Please contact the instructor during the first week of class to make arrangements. Additional information is available from MSU Disability Support Services.

Tentative Course Schedule :

Week 1	Jan 9, 11	Introduction, classification, main food source plants; no lab
Week 2	Jan 14, 16, 18	Main food source plants; Lab 1
Week 3	Jan 22, 24	Main food source plants; Lab 2
Week 4	Jan 28, 30	Centers of origin; sugar and oil plants; Lab 3
"		1st exam: Feb 1
Week 5	Feb 4, 6, 8	Sugar and oil plants; Lab 4
Week 6	Feb 11, 13, 15	Fruit and vegetable plants; Lab 5
Week 7	Feb 20, 22	Fruit and vegetable plants; Lab 6
Week 8	Feb 25, 27	Fruit and vegetable plants; Lab 7
"		2nd exam: Mar 1
Week 9	Mar 4, 6, 8	Fruit and vegetable plants; no lab
		<i>Week 10: Spring break</i>
Week 11	Mar 18, 20, 22	Aromatic plants (herbs and spices); Lab 8
Week 12	Mar 25, 27	Medicinal plants; no lab
Week 13	Apr 3, 5	Medicinal plants; no lab
Week 14	Apr 8, 10	Medicinal plants; Lab 9
"		3rd exam: Apr 12
Week 15	Apr 15, 17, 19	Medicinal plants; Lab 10
Week 16	Apr 22, 24, 26	Technical plants; Lab 11
Week 17	Apr 29, May 1, 3	Ornamental plants; Lab 12
Week 18		4th Exam: Thursday May 9, 9:00–9:50 a.m.

Please note that the schedule is a subject to change. Only exam dates are fixed.