

Systematic Botany. Lecture 1

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August 24th, 2011

Outline

Course in general

Description

Grading

Course schedule

Slides from International Botanical Congress

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Course description

Systematic Botany will cover a diversity of plants in two ways:

- ▶ Flora of North Dakota

We will approach a diversity of North Dakota plants, learn the most important plant families of the state, determine most common plant genera and species, with the emphasis on plants of ecological, economical and cultural importance.

- ▶ Diversity of Life

We will cover plant and plant-related groups of living things from the very top levels (kingdoms and domains) to the level of class (like brown algae or conifers) and sometimes order (mostly for vascular plants). This part will emphasize the evolution of life, general principles of diversity and contemporary methods of taxonomy (like molecular phylogenetics).

Lectures Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 2:00 a.m. to 2:50 a.m., Moore 213

Laboratories Thursdays, 1 p.m. to 3:50 p.m., Moore 213 and outdoor

Labs will have an extensive research component. While we still have living plants outdoor, the labs will be excursions with herbarium collection. We also assess the diversity of most common local plants in order to create a beginner's field guide. As winter approaches, we will move to the indoor plant determination and databasing, and finally to phylogenetic methods.

Web site : http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol_448/

Exams

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

Labs

- ▶ This is a **laboratory course**, meaning that 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.

Absence

There are five legitimate reasons for absence:

1. emergency situations,
2. attested medical conditions,
3. military duty,
4. participation in MSU sports events,
5. dependent sick leave.

Absence from exams or laboratories needs to be announced to the instructor in advance. I strongly recommend attending lectures regularly. Lecture contents will not exactly follow the textbook and additional information will be supplied.

Final questions

- ▶ At the end of every lecture I will give one short test question to answer.
- ▶ Each question will give from 1 to 3 points.

Points

A total of 600 points can be earned and are distributed as follows:

Lecture tests : 60 points (1–3 points per question)

Three best exams : 300 points

Laboratories : 240 points (20 points per lab)

Grading points may vary between exams, tests, and labs.

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.

Final question (1 point)

Final question (1 point)

What is *Haptanthus*?

Summary

- ▶ BIOL 448: download the syllabus from the Web site (http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol_448/).

