HORT 2110 (4 credits) Ornamental Plants I
Course syllabus, Fall 2023

Lecture: Skeen Hall, W129, MW, 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM
Laboratory: Skeen Hall & multiple landscape sites, M, 1:30 – 3:50 PM

Instructor: Rachel Gioannini, N352 Skeen Hall
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Office hours: Tuesdays 10-11am, Wednesday 1:30-2:30 or **by appointment**

Welcome to Ornamental Plants I!

I am so excited to share plant knowledge with you. We will not only learn about specific plants but also plant morphology, reproduction, and propagation. You will also get an opportunity to practice landscape design with plants we learn in this class. I am a complete plant nerd and look forward to sharing my passion and enthusiasm for plants with you. At the completion of this course, you will see plants in a new light.

As HORT majors, you will spend your life working with plants. Skills you learn in this course, such as a method to identify plants by visual characteristics, will make you more employable. If you choose to focus on one plant in your future research, you'll still need plants to compare results between and this class sets you up to design better experiments. If your goal is to own a floral shop, you'll learn to apply landscape design principles to your designs. In your personal life, you can impress your friends and families by identifying plants when you visit gardens.

Course description:
On Mondays, we learn about a list of plants and then we see them in lab. We also quiz on plants from the previous week. On Wednesdays, we learn other things, like about plant reproduction and propagation, the difference between cactus and succulents and many other topics.

Course objectives:
At the conclusion of this course, you will be able to:
1. Identify landscape plants by scientific names
2. Apply botanical terminology to describe plants
3. Illustrate plant family relationships
4. Create a landscape design that incorporates design principle
5. Demonstrate the applicability and interrelatedness of course content

Class Resources: Both texts listed below are **optional.**
1. St. Hilaire, R. 2012. Landscape Plants for the Lower Rio Grande Basin. Sentia Publishing ISBN 978-1-7320601-7-3.
2. Elpel, Thomas J. 2018 (6th edition). Botany in a Day; the Patterns Method of Plant Identification. HOPS Press, ISBN 978-1-892784-35-3. **Available new or used through online resources.**

Online resources: The websites listed below are good places to get information about plants. Remember that even good websites may have information that is not written specifically for our USDA zone.
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center: https://www.wildflower.org/collections/
Missouri Botanical Garden: http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx
Mountain States Wholesale Nursery: https://mswn.com/plant-database/

GRADING: **Grading Summary** Points:

In-class activities (5 points per activity)	190
Lab quizzes (9 x 20 pts)	180
Plant brochure project	100
Plant family project	100
Group design project	150
Plant presentation project	150
In class tests, 3 total	300
Plant ID mid-term test	80
Plant ID final test	80
Total points available	**1330**

Final grades
A = 1197-1330 points
B = 1063-1196 points
C = 929-1062 points
D = 795-928 points
F = <794 point

Extra credit:
There may be opportunities for extra credit during the semester. If there is something you are doing or know about and you think it might be worth extra credit, please let me know about it.

Attendance:
I expect you to be present in class. Exposure to the material will increase your chances of success. Also, there are points given for in class activities that cannot be made up. In my classes, students who commit to being in class usually receive higher grades.

In-class activities (5 points per activity):
In-class activities are my way of encouraging you to attend class and review class material before and after lectures. These points are collected through completing the in-class activities each day. If you are late and miss a starting quiz, it will not be repeated but there may be other activities during class where partial points can be earned. There will often be more than one activity per day but they will not be announced prior to class. Reviewing course materials as suggested in the course schedule will help you prepare for in-class activities.

Everyone gets **3 Free Passes**. To apply your Free Pass, email me what day (and activity, if possible) you want to use it for. Free Passes are good for one in-class activity, not one day's total in-class activities.

Plant Brochure assignment (100 points)
You will create an informational brochure on an assigned ornamental plant. Exact project parameters and grading rubric will be discussed in class and posted in Canvas.

Plant Family assignment (100 points)
You will be assigned a plant family to report on. A grading rubric will be posted and the assignment will be discussed in class.

Group Design project (150 points)
The final project will be a simple landscape design, using the plants you've been shown in class and labs. Grading will be on comprehension of the plants, use of design principles and how they could be utilized in a design. More information about this will be presented in class.

Final Project: Plant Project (150 points)
In this project, you will go back to your brochure plant and you will connect it with class plants on the family level and put it into a landscape. The reflection asks you to think about all of the information you are exposed to and how it might apply to your future, either in your life or in your academic career. As with all the assignments, more instructions and a rubric will be provided.

Tests (3 tests, 100 points each)
There will be 3 class period tests. You will be tested on lecture material, plants from labs and handouts. Test 1 covers all material until the first test, Test 2, all materials since Test 1 and Test 3, all materials since Test 2.

The tests will include:
Section 1: Identification
Section 2: Multiple choice and/or short answers
Section 3: True/false; All false answers have to be justified to receive full credit. False answers that do not have correct justification will receive only half credit.
Section 4: labeling/drawing plant parts

Plant ID Midterm and final plant ID (80 points each)
Similar format to a weekly plant quiz but with 20 plants, each worth 4 points per plant; 1 point each for family, genus, specific epithet and common name. You **will** be provided with a comprehensive list of the plants covered for each ID test.

General policies:
In general, I do not accept late work. The course schedule with deadlines is posted and my expectation is that you make time to complete the assignments in the time given. If something unexpected happens, at least submit something! Even a poorly done assignment will glean some points and 50 points is as close to 100 as it is to 0.

Also, please keep me in the loop. I am more inclined to be understand before a deadline than after and it gives me insight into any challenges you are addressing. Make me a part of your solution rather than a part of the problem.

Expectations:
You will thrive in this course increase when you commit to consistent attendance, completing and submitting assignments on time, reviewing the material, and preparing for class. I would foresee this commitment to be approximately 120 minutes outside of class per week. I want you to succeed and I am available to support you. I can only help if you allow me to and can only solve problems if I am aware of them. If you have questions, concerns or just want to talk, please contact me. You are the reason I am here.

NMSU Student Resources and Policies
Please visit *https://provost.nmsu.edu/faculty-and-staff-resources/syllabus/policies* for university policies and student services, including Discrimination and Disability Accommodation, academic misconduct, student services, final exam schedule, grading policies, COVID policies and more.

Course schedule

(subject to change; any changes will be posted as announcements in Canvas)

Week	Date	Topic	Laboratory	Assignments & Notes
1	Aug. 16	Introduction		Prep: Review syllabus and 8/21 PPT, complete pre-course survey
2	Aug. 21	Plant taxonomy and phylogeny **Discuss brochure project**	How to identify plants	Prep: review 8/23 PPT
	Aug. 23	Leaf, bud, and stem morphology		Prep: review plant list 1
3	Aug. 28	Plant list 1	See plant list 1	Prep: review 8/30 PPT
	Aug. 30	Flower & fruit morphology Study guide, Test 1		Prep: complete study guide for Test 1
4	Sept. 4	**Labor Day-No Class or Lab!**		
	Sept. 6	**Test 1**		Prep: review plant lists 1 & 2
5	Sept. 11	Plant list 2 **Discuss Plant Family project**	ID quiz list 1, See plant list 2	**Brochures due** Prep: review 9/13 PPT
	Sept. 13	Cactus and Succulents		Prep: review plant lists 2 & 3
6	Sept. 18	Plant list 3	ID quiz list 2, See plant list 3	Prep: review 9/20 PPT
	Sept. 20	Plant propagation, growth and life spans		Prep: Review plant lists 3 & 4
7	Sept. 25	Plant list 4	ID quiz list 3, See plant list 4	Prep: Review 9/27 PPT
	Sept. 27	Plant nutrition, Study guide, Test 2		**Plant Family projects due** Prep: complete study guide for test 2, review plant list 5
8	Oct. 2	Plant list 5	ID quiz list 4, See plant list 5	Prep: study for Test 2
	Oct. 4	**Test 2**		Prep: study for Midterm plant ID
9	Oct. 9	**Midterm Plant ID, Lists 1-5**		
	Oct. 11	Plant authorities, Brochure presentations		Last Day to drop with a W 10/12 Prep: review plant list 6
10	Oct. 16	Plant list 6 Brochure presentations	ID quiz list 5, See plant list 6	Prep: nothing! 😊 Enjoy!
	Oct. 18	Brochure presentations		Prep: Review plant lists 6 & 7
11	Oct. 23	Plant list 7 Brochure presentations	ID quiz list 6, See plant list 7	Prep: Review 10/25 PPT
	Oct. 25	Landscape Design Pt. 1 **Discuss Group Design Project**		Prep: Review plant lists 7 & 8

12	Oct. 30	Plant list 8	ID quiz list 7, See plant list 8	Prep: Review 11/1 PPT
	Nov. 1	Landscape Design Pt. 2, Review for Exam 3		Prep: review plant lists 8 & 9
13	Nov. 6	Plant list 9, Maintenance & Pruning	ID quiz list 8, See plant list 9	Prep: study for test 3
	Nov. 8	**Test 3**		Prep: Review plant lists 9 & 10
14	Nov. 13	Plant list 10, **Discuss Final project and reflection**	ID quiz list 9, See plant list 10	Prep: rehearse group design project presentations
	Nov. 15	Group Design project presentations		**Group Design Project Due** Prep: study for final plant ID
15	Nov. 20	**Thanksgiving Break - No Classes or Lab**		
	Nov. 22			
16	Nov. 24	**Final Plant ID, Lists 5-10**		
	Nov. 29	Group Design presentations, Make up plant quiz (*optional*)		Prep: complete post-course survey
17	Dec. 6	**Wednesday, Dec. 6** **Final Project due! 10:30am** **There is no final exam in this class, only the final project.**		