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### BIOO 335.02: Rocky Mountain Flora Lab

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## Rocky Mountain Flora Lab (BIOO 335)

**TA:** Robert Niese

**Sections:** Thursdays: 10:00-12:00 Natural Sciences 202

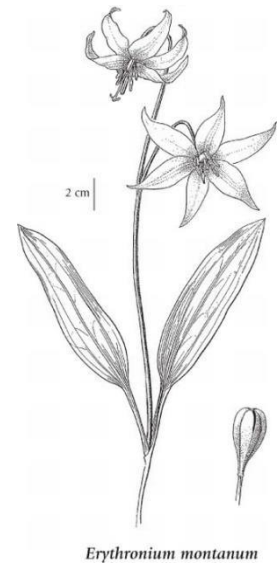
**Email:** robert.niese@umontana.edu

**Office Hours:** any time or day, by appointment

**Textbook:** Manual of Montana Vascular Plants by Peter Lesica  
(Bring this to class every day! Along with your journal!)

**Optional** but highly recommended tools:

- Hand lens



### Student Expectations:

Lab Goals and Learning Outcomes:

1) Learn how to "see" plants. Get the gestalt of common families and genera to be able to quickly identify in the wild.

2) Understand how plants are organized and identified

3) Be able to recognize common taxa on sight- families and genera, especially those characteristic of Montana's diverse landscapes

4) Learn how to use resources like dichotomous keys to identify unknown plants

Arrive on time for lab (quizzes are given in the first 15 minutes of class. You do not get extra time if you're late)

Be self-motivated but study groups are HIGHLY recommended. Work together in labs to troubleshoot keying exercises and practice your plant recognition. But remember, you're graded individually, so your notebook entries and plant collections should be your own work, not someone else's work you've simply copied.

Take pride in your notebook entries. These are tools for you to engage with and absorb the information in a way that's meaningful to you! They'll also be checked randomly for up to 5 points.

Attend the full 2-hour session and help with lab clean-up and reorganization at the close of lab. Please help keep things neat for the next sections.

### Attendance:

Do not miss lab.

Labs CANNOT be made-up!!!

If you cannot attend your lab section you may request the option of attending a different section for that week. Please plan ahead.

If you do miss lab, ask a lab partner for their notes so you can fill out your lab notebook.

Random lab notebook checks cannot be made-up.

Quizzes can be made-up under certain extenuating circumstances.

## Grading:

### Lecture Component (350 total)

1st mid- term 100 pts

2nd mid-term 100 pts

Final exam 150 pts

### Lab Component (150 total)

Lab quizzes 40 pts (4 lab quizzes, 10 points each)

Plant collection 60 pts

Lab notebook 20 pts (4 random checks, 5 points each)

Lab final 30 pts

**Total points 500**

☒ **Lab quizzes.** Four quizzes will be given at the start of lab meetings and will cover the previous weeks' content. Visual study guides will be provided the week before each quiz. Weeks with quizzes are noted on the Lecture Syllabus Schedule. Each quiz is worth **10 points**. Quizzes **cannot** be made up before or after their scheduled week unless specifically cleared with me BEFOREHAND and IN WRITING (email is fine). If you do not do this, you will get a ZERO for that quiz.

☒ **Lab notebook.** You will keep your notes from lab in a notebook or journal. Ideally, this should be separate from your Lecture notes (I might collect them for a week) and should be well-organized (all 14 labs in chronological order). In this notebook you are encouraged to draw, label, and record any observations that will help you identify the specimens covered in lab. I will randomly check your lab notebook four times throughout the semester to see that you have been taking notes and to gauge your effort in lab. These checks are worth 5 points each. **If you miss a notebook check, or you have not brought your notebook to lab, you cannot receive these 5 points.**

☒ **Plant collection.** I will give more detail on this later in the semester.

☒ **Lab Final.** A *comprehensive* final practical will be given at the end of the semester that will include a field-based plant recognition component and a lab-based plant keying component. I will give more details on this later in the semester.

## Some Notes:

1. If you are a student with a disability and wish to request reasonable accommodations for the lab experience, contact me privately to discuss options.
2. This is a memorization-intensive class. Don't let this overwhelm you! Ask for help, and I'll do everything I can to help you succeed. Once spring is in full swing, I offer plant walks outside of our normal lab hours to help you review and prepare for upcoming quizzes. I will also coordinate an optional field trip during which you can collect and prepare at least half of the plants you will need for your collection.
3. If you have any problems (e.g., scheduling, concepts, memorization), see me sooner rather than later. It's my job to make sure you learn and succeed! But I can't do that if you don't make an effort. Be proactive about your problems and concerns to show me that you really are trying to succeed.
4. Cheating will not be tolerated. If I notice your eyes wandering to a neighbor's paper during a lab quiz, I will provide ONE verbal warning. If it happens again, official academic disciplinary action will be taken.
5. **MAKE SURE YOUR EMAIL IS CURRENT ON MOODLE/CYBERBEAR!**