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BIOO 335.00: Rocky Mountain Flora

Lila Fishman

University of Montana - Missoula

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BIOO 335: Rocky Mountain Flora

Spring 2017

Welcome to the fascinating world of plant diversity!! This course introduces basic concepts in plant systematics (plus plant ecology and evolution), with emphasis on the vascular plants of Montana.

Course Objectives

1. *Learn general skills of plant identification and classification*
2. *Recognize important plant families and genera of the region*
3. *Understand the origins and functions of plant diversity in Montana*

Instructor: Dr. Lila Fishman

Email: lila.fishman@mso.umt.edu

Phone: 243-5166

Office: 319 Interdisciplinary Sciences Bldg. (ISB)

Office Hours: T/Th 12:00-1:00 in ISB319, plus open lab times TBA

Teaching Assistants (in charge of labs): office hours and contact info TBA in your lab

Mandy Slate (mandy.slate@umontana.edu)

Jill del Sol (jillian.delsol@umontana.edu)

Kory Kolis (kory.kolis@umontana.edu)

Lectures: MW 11:00-11:50 in McGill Hall 210

Texts and equipment (*available in bookstore*)

- *Required:* Lesica, P. Manual of Montana Vascular Plants (please bring to every lab)
- *Optional:* Plant dissection tools kit
- *Optional:* Illustrated field guide such as Plants of the Rocky Mountains, guides to family-level identification such as Botany in a Day, or online guides such as [Montana Plant-Life](#). Please use these resources for images and supplementary information only. Field guides are not suitable for species-level identification and taxonomies/terminology definitions vary, so use the Lesica text and the lecture/lab materials that we provide as your final authority. That said, when you are keying, it is a good idea to check your *final IDs* vs. drawings or photos.

Labs:

Thursdays: 10:00-11:50, 1:00-2:50, 3:00-4:50 in NS202

Fridays: 9:00-10:50, 12:00-1:50 in NS202, and 3:00-4:50 in NS Annex 106

Labs do meet the 1st week! Laboratory content and grading will be explained during the 1st lab session. Please bring your Lesica text and dissecting kit (if you have one) to every session. Your lab notebook will be graded, so plan on keeping separate notebooks for lecture and lab (or use a 3-ring binder for everything and separate the lab materials at the end of the semester.

Moodle Course Supplement

All materials (handouts, PowerPoint presentations, etc.) will be posted on the course Moodle page. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have trouble accessing materials for this course via Moodle (see UOnline for general Moodle issues)! Each lab will also have a Moodle page, and your TA will post materials and grades there. *Note: The materials provided on the web page are intended as a **supplement** to in-class note-taking, not a substitute for attendance. You are expected to attend all lectures and labs.*

Course Policies

Course grades: Grades will be based on 2 in-class exams, a final exam, and the lab.

<u>Points per assignment</u>		<u>Grades</u>
Exam 1	100 points (20%)	A-, A = 90-100%
Exam 2	100 points (20%)	B-, B, B+ = 80-89%
Final Exam	150 points (30%)	C-, C, C+ = 70-79%
Lab	150 points (30%)	D-, D, D+ = 60-69%
Total	500 points	F = <60%

Note: The point percentages corresponding to letter grades are guidelines, not absolutes. However, any curving will be in favor of students (that is, if you score 80%, you will get at least a B-). More detail on lab assignments and grading will be provided in the labs.

Late/missed exams

If you must miss an exam due to a schedule conflict with an *approved* activity (e.g., participation in a UM-team sporting event), please let me know at least a week prior to the exam so that an alternative exam and time can be arranged. If you miss an exam due to an unplanned event (e.g., illness, car accident, etc.), you must contact me via email *as soon as possible* (i.e., not the following week). Make-up exams may be possible, with appropriate justification. Your TA will provide policies regarding late/missed lab quizzes/assignments during the first weeks of lab.

General policies

University policies (<http://www.umt.edu/registrar/students/dropadd.php>) on drops, adds, changes of grading basis, etc. will be observed. After the 15th day of instruction, status changes are not automatic through Cyberbear. I will generally approve changes in grading status until the week after Exam 1 grades are posted; later changes will require substantial justification.

Accessibility policies

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). Please contact DSS if you may have a disability requiring accommodation, and we will work with you and DSS to provide appropriate accommodation. *Please tell me the Monday before each exam if you will be using DSS, as I need to deliver the alternate exams to DSS.* Please contact me directly about ANY accessibility issues with course documents; they were recently re-formatted.

How to succeed in this course

▪ **Be present!**

You will get the most out of this course by committing to attend all of the lectures and labs, and by doing any assigned readings prior to class. There is TON of new terminology in this course; it is important to keep up with it weekly or you could become overwhelmed.

▪ **Ask questions!**

Questions during lecture and lab are always encouraged. Please let me know if you need help with any material; my office hours and open lab times are reserved for students. If you cannot attend office hours, please contact me to arrange another individual meeting time.

▪ **Look closely at the world around you! (And gain extra credit!)**

The point of this class is to give you the tools to identify and understand the plant life around you, so practice looking at plants systematically whenever you can.

You can earn extra credit points (up to 8 total, 4 each x 2 times, in Weeks 2-13) for sharing plant-related observations and questions at the beginning of each lecture. *Please post an accompanying photo or note to the Extra Credit link on Moodle (in first section) by 9:00 am pre-lecture, so that I have a record of your points and can put any images in the day's slides.*