

## **Syllabus**

### **Plant Biology 1308**

This course explores the basic concepts of plant biology by providing an exciting introduction to the economic, social and industrial aspects of plant substances and material using native plants of the northcentral region of New Mexico.

Offered in the J term at Fort Burgwin, SMU-in-Taos campus, Taos New Mexico.

**Instructor:** Professor John E. Ubelaker. Dr. Ubelaker is a full professor in the Department of Biology at SMU. He was recognized by SMU students as a HOPE honoree (Honoring our Professors' Excellence) in 2011, 2012 and in 2009 was named a Ruth Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor by SMU. He is an outstanding University lecturer with many years of teaching popular courses on the Taos campus.

**Office hours:** Available all day and evenings until 8:30

**Telephone:** 214 726-5014

**Email:** Ubelaker@smu.edu

**Required Resources:** Workbook to be provided upon arrival at Ft. Burgwin.

**Mission Statement** This is a course introducing you to the major botanical features of earth with emphasis on plant diversity and the requirement of plants for specific environmental features. Its primary goal is to provide a basic understanding of plant structures, life cycles and the role of plants in ecosystems. This course meets 3 hours of the science requirement.

#### **Learning Outcomes and Benefits:**

Students will be able to recognize the major plant families using significant evolutionary important features of the plants.

Students will be able to distinguish the major figures in Botany by identifying scientist contributions from Aristotle to Darwin and to document worldwide botanical diversity

Students will have an in-depth familiarity with several plant families important to Western Culture.

Students will receive 3 hours of Science credit.

Students will learn in a mountain region of New Mexico with an outstanding landscape.

**Professionalism:** Professionalism will be measured by the professor's subjective assessment of your approach to the class and class work, industry and preparation before class, meaningful oral participation during class and punctual attendance. Extra credit is not available in this course.

**Policies:** Students requesting reasonable accommodation on any course component for leaning differences or bonafide religious observation must contact the professor before arriving in Taos. Only requests accompanied by a letter of documentation the appropriate person in authority will be considered.

**Disability Accommodations:** Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first be registered with Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DAAS) to verify the disability and to establish eligibility of accommodations. Students may call 214 768 1470 or visit <http://www.smu.edu/alac/dass.asp> to begin the process. Once registered students should then schedule an appointment with me before leaving for Taos to make appropriate arrangements.

**Religious Observations:** Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify me in writing before leaving for Taos and should discuss with me, in advance, ([Ubelaker@smu.edu](mailto:Ubelaker@smu.edu); 8 2728) acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence (see University Policy No. 1.9).

**The University Honor code shall be strictly followed**

January

- 2 Travel day from Dallas to Taos if taking wellness
- 5 Travel day from Dallas to Taos; arrival at 4 and orientation at 6:30 after dinner  
Lectures 9-12, lunch, 12-1:00; lectures and labs 1-4:00
- 6 First day of class, 9-12, lunch, 1-4 lectures and lab. Early history of botany, recognizing variation in plants from Aristotle, Plato, Dioscorides, Ray, plant pressing

- 7 Plant evolution and contributions from Buffon, Lamarck and Darwin
- 8 Algae, Fungi and lichens, evolution of the first plants
- 9 Midterm exam; Mosses, horsetails, ferns, Gymnosperms
- 10 Angiosperms
- 13 Angiosperm families, Magnolia complex
- 14 Angiosperm families, Lily complex
- 15 Review and final exam.