Biology 1308 Plant Biology
Instructor: Dr. John Ubelaker, Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences
Ubelaker@smu.edu; cell 214 726 5014

The Course.
The course will provide an introduction to the plant kingdom, a study of their evolutionary relationships, adaptations and field identification. Plants will be collected, pressed and mounted as herbarium specimens. An experiment on invasive plants will be designed and carried out. The student will spend approximately 4 hours each day in lectures and field trips with one additional day long field trip by vehicle and on foot to a unique environment in the Taos region. The course satisfies three hours of the science requirement for non-science majors.

Required Resources.
Plant Biology workbook. It will be available for purchase for $30.00 upon arrival.

Mission Statement.
This is a course that introduces the student to the life cycles, taxonomy and the economic, social and industrial aspects of plant substances and materials in an evolutionary context.

Objective.
The objective of the course is to provide students with a basic understanding of life cycles and plant diversity in relation to biotic and abiotic factors in a scientific format. It includes a laboratory component and meets 3 hours of the curricular requirements for non-science students.

Learning outcomes.
In this course students will survey plant diversity, emphasizing life histories from an evolutionary prospective and by using examples of
plants in the northcentral region of New Mexico. Both lectures and field trips to the various ecological zones present around the Taos area will provide the necessary framework of biological concepts that the student will apply to the course material. Prerequisite information is not necessary. This course meets three hours of the science requirement of non-science students.

**Grading and Policy.**
Your course grade will be based on Professionalism and the Examinations as follows:

- Professionalism: 10 points
- Daily Quizzes: 40 points
- Final Exam: 100 points

Professionalism points + midterm examination + Quizzes + Final exam = 150 points

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:
- 93-100 A;
- 90-92 A-;
- 88-89 B+;
- 80-82 B-;
- 78-79 C+;
- 73-77 C;
- 70-72 C-;
- 60-69 D;
- 0-59 Don’t.

**Study Skills.**
As students you have the right to make a decision to work as little or as much as you like on each course. The following suggestions are made to guide your decision process.

1. I recommend that you spend at least two hours outside of the classroom for each hour of lecture. Before each lecture read the material from the text book and be prepared to ask questions that can be answered in class. After each class review your lecture notes for an hour and reread the text.

2. Be on time for lecture and laboratory sessions. Take good notes and listen to the lecture. Some material on the exams will come from both the text and the lecture material. The quizzes will be given at the beginning of each lecture.
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.

Examinations.
Examinations may not be re-scheduled, distributed early, made up or turned in late. The midterm examination will be distributed in class at the date and time designated for distribution and must be completed within the class period. The final examination is not cumulative. Questions may involve short answers.

Policy.
Students requesting reasonable accommodation on any course component for learning difference or bonafide religious observance must contact the professor as detailed below. Only requests accompanied by a letter of documentation by the appropriate person in authority will be considered.

Disability Accommodations.
Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first register with Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS) to verify the disability and to establish eligibility for accommodations. You may call 214 768: 1470 or visit the office to begin the process. Once registered you should then schedule an appointment with Dr. Ubelaker to make the appropriate arrangement.
Religious Observations
Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify Dr. Ubelaker in writing at the beginning of the term and should discuss with him in advance acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence.

The University Honor Code shall be strictly followed.
The Honor code for SMU policies as described in the student handbook will be followed in this course. You will be required to sign and present an Honor Code Statement and pledge prior to each assignment. Any allegation of violation of academic integrity in the lecture or laboratory portion of this course will be reviewed in the Department and/or referred to the Honor Council.

Schedule.
January
4. Arrival after 4:00 and check in a dining hall, dinner from 5-6:30; orientation after dinner. Plant Biology students will meet briefly after the orientation to receive course notebooks.
5-8. Lecture at 8:30-12 at the tables outside cafeteria. Laboratory from 1:30-2:30 room 118 Second compound in the fort building
9-10. Free days
11-12 Lectures and one field trip
13 Final exam