

BUTTE COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

EH 24 - Spring Plant Identification

3 Unit(s)

Prerequisite(s): NONE

Recommended Prep: Reading Level IV; English Level III; Math Level II

Transfer Status: CSU/UC

34 hours Lecture

51 hours Lab

This course is a study of identification, growth habits, culture and ornamental use of spring landscape and indoor plants adapted to climates of California. Plants emphasized will come from the current California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers (CANGC) and California Landscape Contractors Association (CLCA) Certification Test Plant Lists. This course covers those plants best observed and studied in the spring of the year. (C-ID AG-EH 112L).

II. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Explain the binomial method of plant nomenclature.
- B. Utilize plant identification terminology to identify by leaf, bark, flower, fruit and growth habit.
- C. Describe the importance of understanding soil requirements, cultural practices and ecology of different spring plants.
- D. Recognize the various growth habits, environmental requirements and uses of spring plants.
- E. Select and specify spring plants which fit selected criteria such as drought tolerance, deer resistance, and sun or shade requirements.
- F. Use plant dichotomous keys to identify collected and preserved plant materials.
- G. Demonstrate the use of computerized plant selection programs.
- H. Develop a plant characteristics key for future design work.

III. COURSE CONTENT

A. Unit Titles/Suggested Time Schedule

Lecture	
<u>Topics</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1. Botanical nomenclature and terminology of plant identification sheets	3.00
2. External structures used in identification of plants	3.00
3. Discussion and lessons on the use of the Latin language in the botanical naming system	3.00
4. Evergreen shrub and tree identification	5.00
5. Deciduous shrub and tree identification	5.00
6. Ground cover and vine identification	3.00
7. House plants, annuals and tropical identification	3.00
8. Design and usage of plant materials in the landscape	3.00
9. Aesthetics, practicalities and utilities of plants for man	3.00
10. Insects, pests and diseases of ornamental plants	3.00
Total Hours	34.00

Lab

<u>Topics</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1. Botanical nomenclature and terminology of plant identification sheets	4.00
2. External structures used in identification of plants	4.00
3. Discussion and lessons on the use of the Latin language in the botanical naming system	4.00
4. Evergreen shrub and tree identification	7.00
5. Deciduous shrub and tree identification	7.00
6. Ground cover and vine identification	5.00
7. House plants, annuals and tropical identification	5.00
8. Design and usage of plant materials in the landscape	5.00
9. Aesthetics, practicalities and utilities of plants for man	5.00
10. Insects, pests and diseases of ornamental plants	5.00
Total Hours	51.00

IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Lecture
- B. Instructor Demonstrations
- C. Field Trips
- D. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
- E. Laboratory: Each week the students will be introduced to 15 new plants selected by the instructor. The students will be encouraged to take samples for their collection to study. During the 'plant walk', students will have the opportunity to see the plants growing in the landscapes and in containers.

V. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Exams/Tests
- B. Quizzes
- C. Homework
- D. Class participation
- E. Student participation and weekly involvement. There will be a weekly test on (30) different plant species requiring correct identification and spelling of botanical and common names.
- F. Laboratory: This portion of the course consists of the weekly 'plant walk', collection of specimens and data research for completion of the plant identification sheets for the class binders.

VI. EXAMPLES OF ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Reading Assignments
 - 1. Read the textbook chapter on USDA hardiness zones and heat summation regions. Prepare to discuss in small groups in class.
 - 2. Read the chapter of plant taxonomy and use of dichotomous keys for specimen identification. Use the keys in class to identify unknown species in a class activity.
- B. Writing Assignments
 - 1. Prepare a binder of 200 specimen identification cards. Each card should list the 40 environmental requirements for that species.
 - 2. Write a 2-3 page paper about an ornamental plant family of your choice. Your paper should include details such sun and shade requirements, growth characteristics, use as a pollinizer, etc.

C. Out-of-Class Assignments

1. Attend a walking tour of Estates Drive, Chico, CA to view, identify, and comment on cultural care of specimens from the course ID list. Submit a written description of your walking tour including a minimum of 150 specimens.
2. Attend a field trip to Sank Park in Oroville, CA to identify specimens in an institutional setting. Submit an ID list of specimens viewed.

VII. **RECOMMENDED MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION**

Textbooks:

- A. Editors of Sunset Books. Sunset Western Garden Book. 9th Edition. Sunset Publishing Corporation, 2012.
- B. Wait, D. Dwight. Ornamental Plants: Their Care, Use, Propagation, and Identification. E.H.C., Modesto, CA, 1994.

Materials Other Than Textbooks:

- A. Student will need one or two large (2 -3") three-ring binders and 1 package of plant identification data sheets (200), which are available from the campus bookstore. Some type of containers, such as sandwich bags, and pruning shears will be needed to collect weekly specimens.

Created/Revised by: Carrie Monlux

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