

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for HORT 52

SPRING PLANT MATERIAL IDENTIFICATION

Effective: Fall 2015

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

HORT 52 — SPRING PLANT MATERIAL IDENTIFICATION — 3.00 units

Identification of landscape and garden plants will be categorized. Growth habit, climatic adaptation, ornamental value, maintenance and care of trees, shrubs, vines will be studied, with the focus on evergreen and spring flowering plants. (8 hours of lab to be scheduled on Saturdays, which may include one or more field trips)

2.50 Units Lecture 0.50 Units Lab

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

	MIN
Lecture Hours:	45.00
Lab Hours:	27.00
Total Hours:	72.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

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

- A. Identify 150 plants with both botanical and common names, using flower, fruit, bark, leaves, size and growth habits
- B. Select plants to use in specific landscape and garden situations
- C. Apply research of local micro-climates to select appropriate landscape plants
- D. Describe specific maintenance needs for selected plant species

V. CONTENT:

- A. Botanical and common names of plants
- B. Identification techniques and methods for identifying trees, shrubs, and other plants
- C. Landscape and garden use based on plant characteristics and size
- D. Climatic adaptation, temperature tolerances of selected plant species
- E. Mature height, spread, and growth rate of selected plant species
- F. Soil adaptation, water requirement, and fertilization requirement of selected plant species
- G. Maintenance, care, and pruning of selected plant species
- H. Propagation methods of selected plantspecies
- I. Pests, diseases, and abiotic disorders common to selected plant species

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Lecture** -
- B. **Lab** - Describe specific maintenance needs for selected plant species
- C. **Field Trips** - Visit gardens and landscaped areas to study mature plant specimens
- D. **Projects** - Work with students to prepare a portfolio with ID information and photos, for the 150 plants covered by this course

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Weekly field study to identify and study plants
- B. Develop plant reference material on each plant studied
- C. Organize into student study groups to go out into the field to review plants covered in class
- D. Prepare a portfolio of the 150 species covered during the course

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

- 1. Exams/Tests
- 2. Research Projects
- 3. Field Trips
- 4. Class Participation
- 5. Home Work

6. Lab Activities

B. **Frequency**

1. Four field plant identification exams
2. Two written exams (mid-term and final)
3. A Plant Identification Portfolio compiled by students, containing 150 plant material identification data sheets, including pictures
4. Daily attendance and active participation will be observed and noted.

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Sunset Books. *Sunset Western Garden Book of Landscaping*. 1st ed., Sunset Publishing, 2014.
2. Sunset Books. *New Sunset Western Garden Book*. 9th ed., Sunset Publishing, 2012.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A. Appropriate sturdy footwear, and personal protective equipment, such as ear plugs, gloves, and safety glasses must be worn during certain lab activities, such as motorized equipment operation.
- B. Access to internet is required, in order to use online resource material and blackboard.