

Course Syllabus

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Course Title: Flower Power - Application of the Art and Science of the Beauty and Perfection of Flowers

Instructor: Professor Heiner Lieth, jhlieth@ucdavis.edu (<mailto:jhlieth@ucdavis.edu>); 530-752-7198

TAs: Yihe Zou, Logan Smith and Nick Claypool

Format: Ten 110-minute class meetings (one per week): combination of lecture, discussion and other learning experiences

Units: 2-units with P/NP grading

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce students to the world of flowers. Blooming plants are grown for potted plants and for cut-flowers. Various industries are involved in this and all use highly specialized techniques and technologies. Both art and science are involved in harnessing the power of flowers. A variety of topics will be studied as part of gaining a basic understanding of this world. Students will learn about how flowers are produced in commercial production and how they are handled and used. Every class period is designed to provide interesting elements and the entire course is designed to be fun.

Prerequisites: High-school biology.

Course Content: (topics covered, not in this order)

- Introduction and Background: Introduction to biology of flowering; How cut-flowers are used for impact in society; Experience giving and receiving cut-flowers; what is "Flower Power"?
- Plants used in the cut flower industry: Students will learn names of some cut flowers, flowering potted plants and foliage
- Handling of cut-flowers and potted flowering plants: Factors that influence vase life; transportation issues; Cold-tolerant vs cold-sensitive flowers
- The Art of using cut-flowers and flowering potted plants: Flower arranging – home-made and professional; the difference between a mass-market bouquet and a florist's bouquet
- Breeding of flowers: Basic breeding techniques used for getting desirable cut-flower traits; Seed companies; private companies and individual breeders
- Commercial Flower Production (horticulture): Examples of production systems from all over the globe; Relationship between markets and production systems; Pest and disease management in flower-growing; Global perspective – global markets and how they drive production
- Various facets our use of flowers - for enjoyment, medicine, food, etc
- Flower Marketing aspects: Markets: holiday market vs non-holiday market; Details on specific holidays: Valentine's Day and Mother's Day; Other wide-spread uses: weddings, funerals, etc; Florists, "Big Box" stores, Supermarkets and Internet flowers

Learning Objectives:

This course is designed for both men and women to gain knowledge about how to use flowers. Students will learn some basic facts about flowers: names, biology, etc.

Weekly Schedule:

The one class meeting per week will be held as scheduled; attendance is mandatory for the entire 2 hours and will be checked. Attendance will generate points which can only be gained by being physically present in the lecture hall. Unless otherwise announced, these class meetings will start in the classroom assigned through the registrar; some class meetings may involve going to another location. The learning experience during the class meeting will be of various types: lecture, discussion, hands-on demo, etc.

Attendance/Participation During Lectures 2 through 10 there will be a set of points which will be gained for attendance/participation. There are generally 10 points available each week. Of these points some must be gained by correctly answering pop test questions. The remainder of the 10 points are available for being in attendance the entire lecture. Each lecture you need to have a Scantron 2000 form as it will be used to measure these points. Each student is expected to bring a scantron form to each lecture period. Note that you must also hand your own form in and you must also show your SID. DO NOT HAND IN ANOTHER STUDENT'S FORM; if you do then we will count none of the forms you hand us as this will be seen as an attempt to record participation for a person who is not actually present (cheating). If you must leave early, then you can try to hand your Scantron form to one of the TAs but you may find that none are available.

Required work outside of scheduled class:

The students will read the book *Flower Confidential* (by Amy Stewart) and write about their experiences and insights. Weekly participation, both in and out of class are expected. Students will be expected to write coherently. Various topics will be provided, challenging the students to consider various topics that may or may not have been started during the class meeting. Grading will evaluate both content and quality of the submission.

PLS 006 Portal: Students are required to use the PLS006 Canvas portal for submission of assignments and for access to all course materials. No work will be accepted on paper or by email unless explicitly negotiated.

Grading: Gradebook information will be maintained through Canvas. Students should consult this resource to verify that point credits have been given correctly. The total number of points at the end of the quarter will be between 190 and 210 (i.e. approximately 200 points) the exact number will be known only at the end of the quarter.

Much of this point total is derived from your participation in the classroom. This means you must be present the entire time and being late may cost you the points. Departing the lecture hall early will also cause you to lose points. Note that excuses for absences are completely irrelevant and do not have an effect on the grade. Note that we will NEVER call roll; attendance is always taken as described in the **Attendance/Participation** section above. You need to be physically present and mentally alert. If you fall asleep then you are absent! If your body is not in the lecture hall, then it is absent and no excuse will change that. So the total attendance points for all 10 weeks will be between 90 and 100 points; in other words, this is half of your course grade!

There will be two "exams", one in the middle of the quarter and one at the end. Both will be multiple-choice which will require only 15 minutes to take (do not be late for these; once the first student leaves the room no one will be given an exam paper, so arriving late may result in 0 points). On the date of the exam there will be other activities before or after the exam.

Pass/NoPass grading means: a grade of P is assigned for a course grade of 75% or better based on the total number of points accumulated during the quarter. Note that attendance adds enough points so that even a few absences can result in a grade of NP in the course. The best strategy is to attend every lecture and complete all the assignments and exams.

Invariably some students miscalculate the points-situation and end up in the last weeks of the quarter with no way to score enough points to pass. Note also that if you register late and miss a lecture or two, you can generally still pass but you will not have the luxury to miss 25% of all the points. It also does not matter what reason you might have for missing a lecture.

Submission of materials: at various times you will need to submit materials. Do not have someone else submit anything for you. Having someone else submit anything on your behalf, including attendance documentation, will be deemed a serious violation. Also, if someone else asks you to hand in something for them, then do not agree to that because if you do that then that too is an offense. In other words, both will be deemed equally guilty. Whenever handing something in please have your student ID out and ready to show.

If you do not have your student ID any more, then go have another one made. You will need it a lot in PLS006.

Note also that every submission will have a due time on a particular date. Delayed submission may result in partial credit but only where specifically documented (e.g. Canvas assignments always carry a submission deadline, for full credit) as well as a "accept-until" time (partial credit will be given if submitted between the two times). A typical penalty is 20% even if only late by a few seconds.

Scantron forms: As mentioned above, you should bring a Scantron 2000 form and a #2 pencil to each class. Also bring an eraser that can completely remove a pencil mark from the form so that you can change answers if needed. You also need a photo id since that is checked as you hand in your completed form. If you mark your form with pen or marker instead of pencil then it will result in 0 point because the scantron machine will not detect those marks.

Email communication with staff: - Note that there are hundreds of persons enrolled and each staff member gets hundreds of email messages per day (unrelated to this course). ALWAYS be sure that the subject line of any communication indicates PLS6 if you are communicating about this course. If you forget to do that, and thus get no response, then you should assume that it got routed into a spam folder. Do persist; we are not ignoring you.

It is not always clear to whom you should direct correspondence. All grading is done by the TAs; so direct your inquiries there. If that does not result in satisfaction for you, then please forward the stream of communication to Prof Lieth.

If you send email and do not get a response within 2 days, then please resend (being sure to also CC to Prof Lieth).

Students with Disabilities: We do make accommodations for students with disabilities as long as the disability has been certified by the [SDC \(link\)](http://sdc.ucdavis.edu/) (<http://sdc.ucdavis.edu/>). Note however, that the Center's suggestions are recommendations and represent only the first step in getting some sort of accommodation. To get an actual accommodation you must secure this in a face-to-face meeting with Prof Lieth (not with the TAs) and this meeting must be held in conformance with university policy (See your SDC paperwork for details). Please note that I must ask you about your disability and would never do this in public (in the lecture hall). Note also that nearly all exams that I give are designed to be very short (15 minutes) and ALL students have more time than needed. Any extra time given will be in relation to the time frame for which the exam is designed, not the time that is allowed to all students.

I am also aware that many persons have some form of dyslexia or some issues with distractions. Even if not so extreme as to qualify as a disability, I would encourage all students to seat themselves in a way that minimizes this issue. If you suspect you might have such an issue, then be sure to sit as close to the front of the room as possible (especially during exams) as this will minimize distractions and the lighting tends to be better. If you cannot find such a seat, then please ask one of the TAs or Prof Lieth to assist you.

Course Summary: