



COURSE OUTLINE

Course Number: OHT 121-010

Course Title: Herbaceous Plant Materials

Credits: 3

Hybrid Class: Lecture / On-line

Fall/2021

Lab: Wednesdays from 10:00AM - 11:50AM in the Horticulture Greenhouse (Room HG100)

Prerequisite: BIO-101 OR OHT-101 Minimum Grade C or permission of the Program Coordinator

Catalog Description:

A study of cultivated, ornamental herbaceous plant species. Emphasis is placed on identification, use, height, texture, cultural requirements and season of bloom. Special topics include designing an herbaceous garden with year-round seasonal interest, insect pests, diseases and growing techniques and container gardening.

Textbook (recommended but not required):

'Armitage's Garden Perennials' by Allan M. Armitage, published by Timber Press

Revision date: 2021/08/31

Course coordinator: Amy Ricco, 609-570-3372, riccoa@mccc.edu

- **Information covered in this course that makes up the majority of the final grade:**
 - Scientific and common names of ~187 herbaceous plants commonly used in New Jersey landscaping
 - The ability to identify all of these plants by sight
 - Site requirements (sun, soil pH, stress tolerance) for many of these plants
 - Design of a sample landscape that provides year-round interest and overcomes several site challenges (final project)
- **Information that will be a minor part of the student's grade:**
 - Bloom period of the plants that produce flowers
 - Pests affecting these plants
 - Which plants are toxic to humans and animals
 - Overall size and habit of the plants
 - Root structure of the plants
 - Features common to closely-related plants (morphology, site requirements, pests)
 - Which of the plants are native to New Jersey and the surrounding regions
- **Information that will be presented but will not be graded:**
 - Common landscaping uses for each plant
 - Alternate common names and outdated scientific names
 - Taxonomic information about the genetic relation of the plants to one another
 - Etymologies of the scientific names
 - Facts of interest about some of the plants

Course Instructors:

Lecture Instructor: Jay Gager - gagerj@mccc.edu

Lab Instructor: Carl Vivaldi - vivaldic@mccc.edu

Grading:

30% Weekly Identification Quizzes

25% Weekly Homework Assignments

15% Landscape Map Project

15% Mid-Term Exam (Based entirely on Homework)

15% Final Exam (Based entirely on Homework, non-cumulative)

Mercer's Grading System:

A 93-100

A- 90-92

B+ 87-89

B 83-86

B- 80-82

C+ 77-79

C 70-76

D 60-69

F 0-59

Lab:

Lab is the only opportunity you will have to see live-specimen plant material. Lab will be held every week regardless of the weather conditions. Please come to Lab every week prepared to participate in hands-on activities. In order to participate in Lab, you must wear closed-toed shoes (sneakers or boots) to protect your feet; this is an MCCC rule. Flip-flops and sandals are not allowed. Field trips may be planned throughout the semester, though due to the COVID-19 pandemic we can no longer offer school-sponsored transportation for health & safety reasons.

Attendance:

Since this course covers an extensive amount of material over the semester, every Lab is important and therefore attendance is expected. **If you're unable to attend for any reason, please notify both professors immediately via email.** Missing more than 2 labs is potentially grounds for dismissal from the course. ID quizzes will be given on a weekly basis, and if you're absent you'll miss a quiz. Making up ID quizzes is difficult, as the process may involve walking around campus. The burden of responsibility to make up missed quizzes is on the student. Due to the current situation with COVID-19, we will try to be as flexible as possible.

Importance of Online Materials:

Because the lecture component of this course is entirely online, it's important to regularly check your Mercer email account. If you'd prefer, you can forward it to your personal email, but you must ensure you keep track of current announcements that are sent to your student email address. Online participation in the form of weekly homework assignments is worth 25% of your final grade. All homework answers can be found in the weekly slideshows hosted on Blackboard, which you're expected to check regularly. Exams will draw their questions entirely from the material in these assignments.

ID Quizzes:

ID quizzes will be given every week at the beginning of Lab, unless otherwise noted on the course schedule. Quizzes will be based on the previous week's lab material. Quizzes will cover identification only. You'll be shown each plant from the previous week's lab, whereupon you must write down the scientific and common name. Quizzes can either be given in-person with live specimens or hosted on Blackboard using images as the situation requires. No extra time will be given if you're late to a quiz. You'll receive a 0 for any missed quiz. All quizzes will be marked according to Mercer's grading system. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. The remaining quiz grades will be averaged, and this score will be 30% of your final grade.

Mid Term and Final:

Both exams will be online and cover all aspects of the plant material covered in the homework assignments. There won't be any identification on the exams, but the plants will always be referred to by their scientific names, so a working knowledge of these is necessary in order to complete the tests. Each exam will be worth 15% of your final grade.

Landscape Map Project:

Towards the end of the course, you'll make a landscape plan that contains a total of 48 plants. For each month of the year, 4 plants must be included that are in bloom or have some feature of interest. In addition, you'll be given a site map for a fictional property to work from. This property will have 8 beds to fill, each with a different challenge. Of your 48 plants, 6 must go in each bed, and must meet the restrictions given for that bed (height, shade, drought, non-toxic etc.). Plants should be listed as correctly-spelled scientific and common names followed by the month for which they're being used in parentheses, and all entries should be grouped by which bed they're planted in. Up to 12 of your plants may be ones not included in this course, but they must be herbaceous. Submissions must be either plain text through Blackboard or as a PDF (Word, Google Docs, and OpenOffice formats will not be accepted). More details and an example will be available when the project is assigned. This project is worth 15% of your final grade.

Cell Phone Policy:

Cell phone use is a distraction to those around you. For this reason, MCCC has restricted their use in the classroom. Please respect your classmates and the instructor by turning the ringer off your phone for the duration of class. If you must make a phone call, please do so during a break or after class. This policy also prohibits the practice of text messaging during class time. You are, however, encouraged to take pictures of the plants we cover in lab to help you study, and may use your phone to do so.

FALL 2021 Schedule of Online Coursework and Labs

Week 1 (8 Sep)	Online Coursework: Unit 1 - Container Planting Lab: Review Course Outline, Unit 1 - Container Planting
Week 2 (15 Sep)	Online Coursework: Unit 2 - Lamiales 1, Homework 1 Due Lab: Unit 2 - Lamiales 1
Week 3 (22 Sep)	Online Coursework: Unit 3 - Lamiales 2 & Other Lamiids, Homework 2 Due Lab: Unit 2 ID Quiz , Unit 3 - Lamiales 2 & Other Lamiids
Week 4 (29 Sep)	Online Coursework: Unit 4 - Asterales 1, Homework 3 Due Lab: Unit 3 ID Quiz , Unit 4 - Asterales 1
Week 5 (6 Oct)	Online Coursework: Unit 5 - Asterales 2, Homework 4 Due Lab: Unit 4 ID Quiz , Unit 5 - Asterales 2
Week 6 (13 Oct)	Online Coursework: Unit 6 - Asterales 3 & Apiales, Homework 5 Due Lab: Unit 5 ID Quiz , Unit 6 - Asterales 3 & Apiales
Week 7 (20 Oct)	Online Coursework: Unit 7 - Other Asterids & Superasterids, Homework 6 Due Lab: Unit 6 ID Quiz , Unit 7 - Other Asterids & Superasterids
Week 8 (27 Oct)	Online Coursework: Mid-term Review, Homework 7 Due, Mid-Term (available online after lab review) Lab: Unit 7 ID Quiz , Mid-term Review (Units 1-7)
Week 9 (3 Nov)	Online Coursework: Unit 8 - Saxifragales & Ranunculales Lab: Unit 8 - Saxifragales & Ranunculales
Week 10 (10 Nov)	Online Coursework: Unit 9 - Rosids, Homework 8 Due , Final Project Assigned Lab: Unit 8 ID Quiz , Unit 9 - Rosids
Week 11 (17 Nov)	Online Coursework: Unit 10 - Poales, Homework 9 Due Lab: Unit 9 ID Quiz , Unit 10 - Poales
Week 12 (24 Nov)	NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING BREAK
Week 13 (1 Dec)	Online Coursework: Unit 11 - Asparagales, Homework 10 Due Lab: Unit 10 ID Quiz , Unit 11 - Asparagales
Week 14 (8 Dec)	Online Coursework: Unit 12 - Other Monocots, Homework 11 Due Lab: Unit 11 ID Quiz , Unit 12 - Other Monocots
Week 15 (15 Dec)	Online Coursework: Unit 13 - Ferns & Other Misc. Plants, Homework 12 Due, Final Project Due Lab: Unit 12 ID Quiz , Unit 13 - Ferns & Other Misc. Plants

Unit 13 ID Quiz, Homework 13 Due, Final Exam (Units 8-13) Date: TBD

Lecture and Lab Schedules are tentative and subject to change due to weather, transportation issues, or schedules of the destinations we're going to on the field trips.