

Topics in Biology I: Ethnobotany  
BIOL 6000

Spring 2012 (3 credit hours)  
Instructor: Dr. Catherine M. Bush  
Office: Bailey 1108  
Email: [cmbush@valdosta.edu](mailto:cmbush@valdosta.edu)  
Phone: 333-5335

Lecture: MWF 10-10.50 am; BC 1024  
Office hours: Wednesdays and Friday 11-12 pm or by appt.

**Admission into the graduate program or permission of the instructor.**

Plants, People, and Culture: The Science of Ethnobotany.

Michael J. Balick and Paul Alan Cox

Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobotanist Searches for New Medicines in the Amazon Rain Forest by Mark J. Plotkin

This course will present an overview of the biological, chemical and cultural aspects of plant/human interactions including use for food, shelter, textiles, medicine, hunting and psychoactive drugs.

After this course, the student will be able to:

- Describe the historical, cultural and biotechnological aspects of Agriculture
- Appreciate and analyze the myriad of ways humans use plants for their benefit
- Understand the production and utility of plant secondary compounds
- Describe the process in medicinal pharmaceuticals from plant to FDA-approved drug
- Analyze the importance of biodiversity conservation
- Write a review paper on a topic of interest in the field of Ethnobotany based on primary literature

Quizzes	100 pts.
Lecture Exams (3)	300 pts.
Oral Presentation	100 pts.
Paper on "Shaman's Apprentice"	100 pts.
Final Exam	100 pts.

Quizzes will be given periodically throughout the semester. Quizzes will cover material from the previous lecture(s) and will be given during the first 10 minutes of class. Students arriving after 10 minutes will not be able to take the quiz. Each quiz will be worth 10 pts. (one quiz grade will be dropped).

There will be three lecture exams (100 pts. each). You are required to take exams on the scheduled dates. If an unforeseeable emergency occurs, you should make contact with the instructor within 24 hours of missing the exam. Excused exam absences REQUIRE written documentation. A make-up exam will be provided for excused absences. Students who miss an exam without a valid excuse will receive a grade of a 0 and there will be no make-up exam. Exams will include, but will not be limited to, multiple choice, short answer and essay questions.

Depending on class size, individual or group oral presentations will be assigned and will be presented to the entire class during the last few days of the course (see schedule). Further instructions will be on a separate handout.

Graduate students will be required to read Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobotanist Searches for New Medicines in the Amazon Rain Forest by Mark J. Plotkin on their own time and complete a writing assignment on the book (100 pts.).

The final will be cumulative and will have a format similar to the other exams (100 pts.). The date of the final is Friday, May 4 from 8-10 am.

A 90-100%  
B 80-89%  
C 70-79%  
D 60-69%  
F < 60%

The last day to withdraw without penalty is March 1, 2012. If you don't officially withdraw, and instead just stop coming to class, you will receive an F for the course.

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and may result in a failing grade for the assignment, exam or the class. The Department of Biology has a plagiarism policy, which will be handed out the first lecture period.

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telephone or over email because positive identification can't be made.

Students requiring special accommodations because of disability must discuss their needs with me as soon as possible. Those needing accommodations who are not registered with the Special Services Program must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in Farber Hall. The phone numbers are 245-2498 (voice) and 219-1348 (tty).

Tentative

- 9 – Syllabus, Defining Ethnobotany, History (Ch. 1)
- 11 – Ethnobotany History/Overview Cont. Ethnobotany Methods (Ch. 1)
- 13 – General Botany Talk (1108 Book: Life, The Science of Biology)
- 16 – Class Cancelled; MLK Holiday
- 18 -- General Botany Talk (1108 Book: Life, The Science of Biology)
- 20 -- Food – Nutrition (Ch. 3)
- 23 -- Food – Crop Plants (Grasses, Legumes, etc.; Ch. 3)
- 25 – Video (“Out of Eden”: Guns, Germs and Steel; Ch. 3)
- 27 – Video cont., Food – Modern Production (Ch. 3)
- 30 -- Food – Modern Production, GMO, Organics, Seed Banks, Wild Food Plants (Ch. 3)
  
- 1 – Food – Modern Production, continued. (Ch. 3)
- 3 -- Food – Fruits, Nuts and Vegetables (Demo; Ch. 3)
- 6 – Food - Fruits, Nuts and Vegetables cont. (Demo; Ch. 3)
- 8 –
- 10 -- Material World (Fibers, Boats, Poison Arrows, etc.; Ch. 4)

6 -- Sustainable Use (Ch. 6)

9 - Sustainable Use (Ch. 6)