

**ETHNOBOTANY (BIOLOGY 353/553)
FALL, 2012**

Instructor: PhD. Virginia Freire
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Office hours: M from 15:30 to 17:30
T from 10:00 to 11:00

Lecture/Lab: F in CNR 300 from 9:00 to 12:50.

Course goal: To introduce the basic principles of Ethnobotany with emphasis on the impact of plants over the development of human culture and the study of local useful plants. You will get the chance to understand the importance of plants on our lives through several “hands on” activities, field trips, reading assignments, open discussions and research projects.

Let's be green!!: We will have an emphasis on sustainability and environmentally friendly practices and mindset. Please bring your mugs every Friday. We will sample different beverages and some food through the semester.

Textbooks: Plants, People and Culture. The Science of Ethnobotany. Michael J. Balick and Paul Alan Cox. (Required, rental from bookstore).

Useful Plants of Schmeekle Reserve. Field guide. Ben Tracey (I will provide them as a loan. You will need to return them at the end of the semester).

List of recommended textbooks, (available in classroom and/or professor's office):

- Plants, Man and Life. Edgar Anderson.
- Plants and Society. Estelle Levetin. Karen McMahon.
- Ethnobotany: Evolution of a discipline. R. E. Schultes and R. F. Raffauf.
- Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies. Jared Diamond.
- Medicinal Plants and Herbs. Steven Foster and James A. Duke. Petersons Field Guides.
- The complete medicinal herbal. P. Ody.
- American Indian healing arts. E. Barrie Kavasch and K. Baar.
- Infusions of healing. J. Davidow.
- The Forager's Harvest. A guide to identifying, harvesting and preparing edible wild plants. Samuel Thayer.
- Nature's Garden: A Guide to Identifying, Harvesting, and Preparing Edible Wild Plants. Samuel Thayer.
- Edible Wild Plants: A North American Field Guide. T. S. Elias and P. A. Dykeman
- The New Oxford book of food plants. J. G. Vaughan and C. Geissler
- Eating on the wild side. N. L. Etkin (Ed.).
- Food-your miracle medicine. J. Carper.
- Sacred and herbal healing beers. S. H. Bunner.
- Plants of the Gods. R. E. Schultes, A. Hofmann and C. Rättsch
- Natural dyes and home dyeing R. J. Adrosko.
- Biology of Plants by P. H. Raven, R. F. Evert and S. E. Eichhorn, 7th Edition.

Reading assignment: Sastun: My apprenticeship with a Maya healer. R. Arvigo. (Purchase required).

Attendance: Active participation is expected and evaluated for all activities. Missing lecture/lab will decrease your grade.

Grading: I place a strong emphasis on “hands on” activities, including field trips. Notice the low contribution of exams and quizzes to your grade. Please, attend regularly and enjoy the activities planned for each day! The class will be evaluated through participation, assignments, research projects, exams and field quizzes.

Points:	Lecture exams	20 points
	Book discussion	10 points
	Research project	20 points
	Final project	20 points
	Field activity	10 points
	Participation	<u>20 points</u>
	Total	100 points

Scale: Your grade is based on a total of 100 points. The grading scale for the course is:

93%	A
90%	A-
87%	B+
83%	B
80%	B-
75%	C+
70%	C
65%	C-
62%	D+
55%	D
< 55	F

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC
09/07	Introduction to the course. Research project assignation. Activities: Walk to the UWSP/SACS Organic Garden.
09/14	Lecture: Introduction to Ethnobotany. Plants and people (Chapter 1). Field trip 1: Herbal gardening. Freckmans garden and Biology Herb garden. Harvest activity.
09/21	Lecture: useful local plants. Field trip 2: A drive along the river. Useful wild plants. (Robert Freckmann)
09/28	Lecture: useful plants from Schmeeckle Reserve. Field trip 3: Schmeeckle reserve and walk around campus.
10/05	Field trip 4: Visit to Organic Farm.
10/12	Exam 1. Field activity: Schmeeckle reserve.
10/19	Lecture: Plants that heal (Chapter 2). Visit to Alice's Rabbit Whole (herbalist).
10/26	Beverages Chocolate making lab/movie (John Sheffy).
11/02	Lecture: Plants as the basis for material culture I Activity: Basket weaving, cordage etc. (Richard Schneider)
11/09	Plants as the basis for material culture (Chapter 4). Activity: natural dyes.
11/12	Movie: Guns, Germs and Steel. Activity: preparing medicinal plants (tinctures, infusions, decoctions).
11/16	Lecture: From hunting and gathering to Haute Cuisine (Chapter 3) and local edible wild plants. Activity: Movie by Sam Thayer.
11/30	Exam 2. Lecture: Entering the other world (Chapter 5).
12/07	Lecture: Biological conservation and Ethnobotany (Chapter 6). Activity: Book discussion. Movie: Shaman's Apprentice.
12/14	Project presentation.
12/20	14:45 to 16:45 Project presentation/potluck.