ENVIRONMENTAL PLANT IDENTIFICATION & USE (ORH 3513C)
SYLLABUS FALL 2014

Course Description
ORH 3513C - This is an introductory, upper division course with an outdoor, environmental laboratory designed to have students experience commonly used landscape plants, their use in the built environment, and their identifying characteristics. Students will explore plant identification methods, growth characteristics, and culture of landscape and greenhouse plants. Materials include trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, grasses, and floriculture crops.

Course Organization
Lecture T and TH Period 3 (9:35-10:25am) Plant Science Facility (005)
Labs T or W Periods 8-9 (3:00-4:55pm) Plant Science Facility (005) and Newins-Zeigler Hall Breezeway
Campus map link http://campusmap.ufl.edu/

Instructor: Dr. Hector E. Pérez

Contact Info: heperez@ufl.edu; (p) 352-273-4503

Office hours: T, TH immediately after class ( Fiffield Hall); W 1:00-3:00pm (Bldg 550); or by appointment;
campus map link http://campusmap.ufl.edu/. I am delighted to have students come by individually or in groups to clarify points, expand on discussions, and talk about how to integrate concepts covered in class with real world experiences. You don’t need a crisis to make productive use of office hours. Remember, we are here to help you succeed!

E-Learning in Sakai:
Go to http://lss.at.ufl.edu/and enter your Gatorlink username and password. Students must have an active GatorLink ID to access Sakai. Students who do not have GatorLink IDs, who cannot remember their GatorLink login information, whose IDs do not work, or who experience problems with Sakai should contact the GatorLink website http://gatorlink.ufl.edu or to the UF Computing Help Desk for assistance: Hub 132 or 392-HELP.

Required Texts:

Course Goal – The goals of ORH 3513C are to discover the diversity of plant material available for use in landscape settings; differentiate a multitude of plant material; and evaluate the use of plants in landscapes.

General Course Objectives – By the end of the semester, the conscientious student should be able to:
• Identify ≥ 200 temperate and tropical landscape plants using multi-sensory and recall approaches
• Explain plant characteristics used in their identification
• Communicate uses, forms, and functions of plants in the landscape
• Teach others the importance, use, and characteristics of plants in the landscape
• Propose plants for landscape settings based on climatic conditions, cultural requirements, and other features
• Incorporate Florida native plants into landscape settings
• Identify current and potential pest plants
• Interpret descriptive plant information
General Course Expectations – Students participating in this professional learning society are expected to:

- Arrive to class on time
- Be engaged by sharing their questions, perspectives and ideas during and outside of class
- Convey superior work ethic and perform to high standards
- Practice their thinking within the framework of plant identification and use
- Keep an open mind

Instructional Philosophy - My role as an instructor is to act as a thinking coach, guiding students to an understanding of concepts and skills through active and inquiry-based lessons. As a thinking coach, I create opportunities for students to experience concepts and practice their thinking within a discipline. This helps produce a deeper understanding of topics. The lessons I develop for any course are student-focused rather than teacher-centered. In this regard, students are not passively receiving information, but are required to openly practice their thinking. This approach makes it difficult for students to adopt a passive role. To facilitate this objective, I employ various teaching methods which embrace the numerous learning styles displayed by students. Students who are not familiar with this style may feel uncomfortable at first, or resist participating, but with encouragement, they rise to the challenge.

Keys to Success
This course is rigorous, therefore:

- Attend every class period
- Take responsibility for your education
  - Actively participate in discussions and activities
  - Raise questions, divergent viewpoints, and share your experiences in class
  - Practice your thinking in terms of plant identification and use outside of class
- Evaluate how concepts in class apply to the world outside of class
- Use the Carnegie Rule as a guide for MINIMUM time investment per week outside of class
  - ORH 3513C = 4 hours per week in class; 4 × 2–3 hours = 8–12 hours outside of class
- Plan ahead

This course moves very quickly! There are cumulative weekly lab quizzes and a large amount of information to synthesize. Procrastinating in this class will 1) very likely hurt your grade, and 2) make completing assignments more logistically complicated.

Attendance Policy – Attendance in lecture and lab is the student’s responsibility. Your instructors use various teaching methods during lectures and labs. As a result, information and understanding of concepts beyond that provided in handouts or texts is obtained. Keep in mind that questions for exams and quizzes come from activities and discussions. It is in your best interest to participate in class and attend every lecture and lab period. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to talk with another student to discuss what was covered in class. Excessive absence will result in missed class participation opportunities that can not be made up and will significantly impact your grade. It is almost impossible to earn a good grade in this class with excessive absence.

Inclement Weather Policy (Lab) – Labs will be held outdoors. Occasionally, the weather poses challenges to lab sessions. Do not assume that lab will be canceled due to inclement weather occurring before the scheduled lab time. You should come to all lab sessions regardless of the weather. You should be prepared (e.g. umbrella, rain coat, pencil, plastic bag for papers) to attend lab if it rains. Your TA’s will determine if lab is terminated due to severe weather. Missed labs, or portions thereof, must be made up prior to the next lab session.
Make-up Policy
- All deadlines and dates outlined in the syllabus are firm and may only be changed at the discretion of the instructor
- Late assignments/presentations are not accepted
- Missed lecture and lab quizzes cannot be made up later without prior consent of the instructor
- Ignorance of lab location is not a legitimate excuse for absence (see course schedule for lab locations; NOTE: lab locations change from week to week!)
- Exams cannot be taken after the scheduled date without prior written consent of the instructor.
- Only cases of emergency, serious illness, bereavement, or activities that fall under the Twelve-Day Rule will be considered for make-up. You must provide official documentation for all cases.

Assessments & Grading
Lecture: quizzes (4) = 15%; mid-term exam = 15%; final exam = 15%; assignments = 5%
Lab: quizzes (11) = 30%; mid-term exam = 10%; final exam = 10%

Assignments – You will be given various assignments that will be graded. You will be supplied with objectives and expectations for each assignment. In order to practice critical and analytical skills some objectives may be vague. Contact Dr. Pérez if you have questions regarding any assignment.

Assignments are designed to provide you with a better understanding of concepts and provide your instructor a basis for assessment.

In-class Assignments: All in-class assignments must be done in class. These assignments cannot be made up if you miss class. Nor can they be turned in early.

Out-of-class Assignments: If you miss a day when an out of class assignment is assigned you can still do the assignment. However, it must be turned in at the beginning of class on the correct due date.

Course Grading Scale
A = 100-90; B+ = 89.9-85; B = 84.9-80; C+ = 79.9-75; C = 74.9-70; D+ = 69.9-65; D = 64.9-60; E ≤ 59.9

Electronic Device Policy – Using electronic communication devices and laptop or tablet computers during class is disruptive. Therefore, the use of cellular telephones, messaging devices, and other electronic devices during lecture and labs is prohibited. In class, students are required to put phones and messaging devices on silent mode and turn off other devices. All electronic devices, including laptops, must be stowed in a backpack during class. Civilization got along just fine for centuries before there were cellular phones and other electronic devices. You can survive a few class periods. If class is disrupted by use of an electronic device then a 5.0 point deduction will be assessed to your final grade for each infraction. This policy applies to the entire class.

University of Florida Student Honor Code (Rule 6C1-4.017) – When you enroll at the University of Florida, you pledge to hold yourself and your peers to the standards of high honor required by the student honor code. You are expected to uphold your pledge to honesty and integrity in ORD 3513 and HOS 5115. Academic misconduct in any form will not be tolerated. University of Florida procedures will be followed to discipline offenders. There will be no warnings! Sanctions will occur on the first offense. To read the Student Honor Code, learn about conduct that constitutes academic dishonesty, and sanctions visit: http://regulations.ufl.edu/chapter4/4017.pdf

University of Florida Software Use Policy – “All faculty, staff, and students of the University of Florida are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.” (University of Florida Council on Information Technologies and Services. 1994. Office of Information Technologies and Services:
http://pirate.ifas.ufl.edu/INDEX.HTML#contact. access date 18-AUG-06).
University of Florida Counseling Services – Students experiencing crisis or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the University’s counseling resources. The Counseling Center and Student Mental Health provide confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance. The Counseling Center is located at 301 Peabody Hall (next to Criser Hall). Student Mental Health is located on the second floor of Student Health Services in the infirmary.

Counseling Resources
University Counseling Center – 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling: www.counsel.ufl.edu; Student Mental Health – Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling: www.hsc.ufl.edu/shcc/smhs.htm; Sexual Assault Recovery Services – Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual assault counseling; Career Resources Center – Reitz Union 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling: http://www.crc.ufl.edu/

Students With Disabilities Act – The Dean of Students Office coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes the registration of disabilities, academic accommodation within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services, and mediating faculty/student disability related issues. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

To register contact: Dean of Students Office, 202 Peabody Hall, 392-7066, www.dso.ufl.edu.

Thoughts to Remember for the Semester

“Tell me and I forget. Show me and I remember. Involve me and I understand”. -- Chinese proverb

“He who asks is a fool for five minutes, but he who does not ask remains a fool forever”. -- Chinese proverb

“Learning is not so much an additive process, with new learning simply piling up on top of existing knowledge, as it is an active, dynamic process in which the connections are constantly changing and the structure reformatted”. -- K. Patricia Cross

"The test of a good teacher is not how many questions he can ask his pupils that they will answer readily, but how many questions he inspires them to ask him which he finds it hard to answer."
Alice Wellington Rollins

“A little learning is a dangerous thing; Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring”.
-- Alexander Pope (1688-1744)

I look forward to an exciting and rewarding semester with you!
Additional Useful Materials
USDA, ARS, National Genetic Resources Program. *Germplasm Resources Information Network - (GRIN)* [Online Database]. National Germplasm Resources Laboratory, Beltsville, Maryland. URL: [http://www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/tax_search.pl](http://www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/tax_search.pl)
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