

**PLANT SYSTEMATICS - BIOL 3650/5650**

**SPRING SEMESTER 2016**

*Instructor:* Dr. Carter

*Office:* BC 1040 (Herbarium) or BC 1105

*Telephone:* 333-5759, ext. 5763

*Office Hours:* Mon & Wed 11:00-11:50 AM;  
other times by appointment

*Weekly Lecture and Lab Schedule:*

Mon Lec AB 10:00–10:50 AM, BC 1202

Wed Lec AB 10:00–10:50 AM, BC 1202

Thur Lab B 3:00–5:50 PM, BC 2040

Fri Lec AB 10:00–10:50 AM, BC 1202

Lab A 11:00 AM–1:50 PM, BC 2040

**Course Description**

A survey of the principles of plant systematics that includes identification, nomenclature, evolution, and classification within the plant kingdom, and a systematic survey of plant families, with emphasis on local representatives.

Pre-requisites: BIOL 1107K and BIOL 1108K

Contact hours: 150 mins lecture + 170 mins lab per week

Credit hours: 4 sem hrs

**Course Outcomes**

Following is a list of course outcomes linked to Biology Department Educational Outcomes (B) and Valdosta State University General Education Outcomes (V).

- The student will demonstrate understanding of the basic principles of systematics, including identification, nomenclature, classification, description, and the inference of evolutionary patterns from data. [B2; V4, 7]
- The student will demonstrate understanding of evolutionary processes and patterns as exemplified in the major plant groups. [B2; V4, 7]
- The student will demonstrate the ability to handle and analyze plant materials in the laboratory, herbarium, and field. [B1; V5, 7]
- The student will demonstrate the ability to work and use basic equipment effectively in the laboratory, herbarium, and field. [B1; V5, 7]
- The student will demonstrate comprehension of basic concepts and the ability to use scientific terminology accurately through effective oral and written communication and the use of dichotomous keys in a regional floristic manual. [B1; V4, 5, 7]
- The student will demonstrate the ability to follow oral and written instructions effectively. [V3, 7]
- The student will demonstrate the ability to access course resources and complete assignments on-line using computer technology. [V3]
- The student will demonstrate the ability to complete assignments and examinations ethically. [V8]

**Required Texts**

*Plant Systematics*, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. (2016) by Judd et al., Sinauer Assoc., Inc. (abbrev. PS in syllabus)

*Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. (2011) by Wunderlin & Hansen, Univ. Press of Florida (abbrev. GVP in syllabus)

### **Other Required Items**

- Notebook for recording notes in lecture and lab
- Handlens for use on field trips will be checked out to each student at start of semester and returned at end of semester.

### **Recommended Items and Practices**

- Old clothes, including long pants, and sturdy shoes or boots for field trips
- Insect repellent (with DEET) for field trips
- Immediately upon returning from field trips, students are urged to check their bodies thoroughly for ectoparasites (i.e., ticks) and, if possible, to shower.
- Bottled water for field trips
- Food for all day field trips

### **COURSE POLICIES & REQUIREMENTS**

**BlazeVIEW D2L.** A variety of course resources and materials will be made available through BlazeVIEW, and it will also be used to administer assignments and assessments and to post announcements and grades. Students should log onto BlazeVIEW daily in order to check for course announcements. Also, the Mail tool in BlazeVIEW provides a convenient means for students to contact one another and their instructor, and it should always be used to communicate about matters relating to the course. To access BlazeVIEW, select the link under the Current Students tab on the Valdosta State University homepage. Students experiencing difficulties using BlazeVIEW should seek assistance through the VSU Information Technology HELP-Desk located in Odum Library (telephone 245-4357).

**General statement.** In order to complete BIOL 3650/5650 successfully, one must be mindful of all policies relating to attendance, grading, etc. Before the end of the first week of classes, after reading the course syllabus and comprehending the policies presented therein, log onto BlazeVIEW and use BlazeVIEW Mail to send a brief message to your instructor informing him that you have reviewed the course syllabus and understand all course policies. If any of the course policies is unclear, it is the student's responsibility to confer with the instructor for clarification.

Regular attendance of scheduled lecture and laboratory periods, daily preparation, and review are essential for success in this course. Students should prepare for each lecture session by reading the assigned sections from the textbook and other sources as assigned in the course syllabus and under Course Content in BlazeVIEW. Students should bring their textbooks to each scheduled lecture and laboratory period, since they will be used regularly during lecture and lab. Notes should be taken regularly during lecture and laboratory and should be used along with the text and materials made available through BlazeVIEW in studying for examinations.

**Attendance, punctuality, participation and cooperation.** Regular attendance, punctuality, participation and full cooperation are expected. The student is responsible for all material missed, regardless of the reason for absence. Students arriving late for class should enter the lecture room or laboratory quietly and take the nearest seat to avoid disruption. Bear in mind that field trips normally require prompt departure from campus and that tardiness could easily result in a student missing transportation to the field site and absence from the field trip, and that such absences will adversely affect the course grade. Attendance will normally be taken at the beginning of the period. Students who arrive after the roll is checked are counted absent unless they inform their instructor immediately after class or lab of their

tardiness. It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of her/his tardiness. Each three cases of tardiness will be counted as one absence, and cases of tardiness will be counted as absences thusly, unless a satisfactory explanation is provided to the instructor by the student. It is the instructor's prerogative to have the explanation in writing. Any scheduling problems or other extenuating circumstances necessitating chronic tardiness should be explained to the instructor in writing and properly documented at the beginning of the semester. In order to have an absence excused, the student must provide a written explanation with proper documentation immediately upon returning to class. Providing an explanation of absence or tardiness by the student does not insure that the absence or tardiness will be excused. The instructor shall determine the validity of all excuses. Students absent from more than 20% of the regularly scheduled lecture and laboratory periods are subject to failure in the course, as detailed under Academic Affairs > Absence Regulations in the VSU Undergraduate Catalog.

<http://catalog.valdosta.edu/>

Points will be deducted from the final course grade for unexcused tardiness or absence, and inadequate participation and cooperation.

**Field trips.** Field trips are an essential part of this course. Activities and assessments completed during field trips normally cannot be made up; therefore, attendance of all regularly scheduled field trips is absolutely essential for success in the course. In addition to insect repellent and water and other items listed previously, students should bring the *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida*, a hand-lens, notebook, and pens or pencils on all field trips. Students should bring water, soft drinks, and food as needed for the optional Saturday field trips. Students may earn bonus points by participating on the optional Saturday field trips, including the Georgia Botanical Society Pilgrimage. Participation on the Sapelo Island weekend field trip is a course requirement. A checklist of essential and recommended items will be provided for the weekend field trip to Sapelo Island. Lodging expenses at UGAMI will be paid by the Valdosta State University Foundation Price-Campbell Fund. However, students will be responsible for their meal expenses while at Sapelo Island. Food for the class will be purchased collectively, and it is anticipated that the total meal cost for the weekend will be about \$25. A *non-refundable* \$25 deposit will be collected from each student several weeks prior to the Sapelo Island field trip, which will be used to purchase food. A complete field trip schedule is provided with the course schedule.

**Lecture examinations.** Several lecture exams and tests will be given during the semester, at least one of these prior to midterm. Collectively, these exams and tests account for 40% of the course grade.

**Keying tests.** Several keying tests will be given to measure proficiency using analytical dichotomous keys in the *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida*. Substantial lab time will be devoted to supervised determination of unknown specimens, using these keys. It is essential that the student attend lab and field trips regularly and practice identification of specimens in order to develop proficiency with these keys. Collectively, the keying tests account for 30% of the course grade.

**Miscellaneous assessments.** A number of miscellaneous course assessments, assignments, and quizzes will be given during the semester, which, collectively, account for 20% of the final course grade. Some will be graded pass/fail, some with letter grades, and some with numerical grades. Those completed in class or during lab are mostly unannounced and most cannot be made up. Unless otherwise instructed, out-of-class assignments are due at the beginning of the first lecture period of the week *after* the week they are assigned. Unless otherwise instructed, hardcopy of these assignments shall be submitted with

your name (first name and last name), course number and title (BIOL 3650 – Plant Systematics), and due date at the head of the first page, and formatted as follows: 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced throughout, and one-inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right). If there is more than one page, then the pages shall be stapled together with the staple in the upper left corner, and numbered sequentially starting with “1” and page numbers centered at the bottom of each page.

**Class project.** The class will work together on one or more class projects, which will be completed during regularly scheduled lecture and laboratory periods. Assignment of class projects will be made before the end of the second week of the semester.

**Grading.** A ten-point grading scale is normally used (i.e., A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69, F=<60). The final course grade will be determined as follows:

Lecture exams	40%
Keying tests	30%
Misc. assessments	20%
<u>Class project</u>	<u>10%</u>
TOTAL	100%

Meeting the minimum point requirement for a letter grade does not necessarily assure that the student will receive that grade. Assignment of the final grade is the prerogative of the instructor and will be based upon each individual student’s overall performance, including patterns of consistency, trends toward improvement, and positive attitude as demonstrated through attendance, participation, and cooperation.

**Class conduct.** Students are expected to comport themselves courteously at all times during lecture and laboratory. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated, and students behaving in a disruptive manner will be asked to leave class or laboratory and will be referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct in the VSU *Student Handbook*, accessible through the following Internet address.

<http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-conduct-office/documents/student-handbook.pdf>

Consumption of food or drink (including water) is prohibited in the lecture room and the laboratory. Students should be punctual for all scheduled lecture and laboratory meetings, and, except in situations of emergency, students should not depart from lecture before being dismissed. Students are to direct their full attention to lecture and are to refrain from unwarranted discourse. Behavior contrary to these guidelines is disruptive.

**Use of cellular telephones, pagers, and other such devices.** Use of cellular telephones, pagers, or any similar remote communication device is prohibited during scheduled lectures or examinations. If students bring cellular telephones or similar devices to lecture, it is their responsibility to switch them off prior to the beginning of the lecture period. Ringing, buzzing, or any other sounds emitted from such devices will be treated as disruptive behavior on the part of the owner/possessor, and the owner/possessor will be asked to leave lecture immediately.

**Academic integrity.** Students are encouraged to work together and to learn from one another in an appropriate manner. Cooperation between students is especially encouraged in study outside of class.

However, students should bear in mind that most work ultimately must be done individually and independently.

**Access to laboratory.** Students will be granted access to the Botany Laboratory (BC 2040) after hours and during weekends via an access code that is entered into the punch pad on the lab door. Access to the laboratory after hours is a privilege; it is not a right. If problems occur with regard to safety, security, neatness, or general order in the lab, then this privilege will be revoked. It is up to each student to see that all equipment and materials are properly cared for and replaced for proper storage.

**Consumption of food and drink.** The distraction factor aside, food and drink in laboratory pose certain health and safety risks for students and in lecture present problems for maintenance of the building. Therefore, consumption of food or drink (including water) is absolutely prohibited during lecture and in the laboratory room. Bear in mind that food items or drink containers on desks, tables, benches, etc. in lecture rooms and laboratories create the appearance that these items are being consumed and will be treated accordingly by your instructor. Exceptions will be made to allow students to consume food and drinks (non-alcoholic) during field trips, so long as this does not interfere with the fulfillment of normal course obligations. However, it is the student's responsibility to insure that all food stuffs, paper and packaging, bottles and cans are removed from the vehicle and properly disposed.

**Additional requirement for graduate credit.** In order to receive graduate credit (BIOL 5650 only), students are required to write a term paper. Those registered for BIOL 5650 should confer with the instructor about potential topics for the research paper early in the term. An outline is due by midterm.

**Academic integrity.** Students are encouraged to work together and to learn from one another in an appropriate manner. Cooperation among students is especially encouraged in certain laboratory exercises and in study outside of laboratory and lecture. However, students should bear in mind that that most work ultimately must be done individually and independently. All examinations and tests are given to students individually and are to be completed independently. Cooperation by students on tests or examinations is prohibited and constitutes cheating. Unless otherwise indicated, tests and examinations are taken strictly from memory without use of textbooks, laboratory manuals, notes, etc. Unless otherwise indicated, assignments are to be completed individually and independently. Behavior contrary to these guidelines is prohibited and constitutes cheating. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the full extent allowed by University policy and the law.

**Use of cellular telephones, pagers, and other such devices.** Use of cellular telephones, pagers, or any similar remote communication device is not permitted during scheduled lectures, labs, or examinations. If students bring cellular telephones or similar devices to lecture, it is their responsibility to switch them off prior to the beginning of the lecture or laboratory period. Ringing, buzzing, or any other sounds emitted from such devices will be treated as disruptive behavior on the part of the owner/possessor, and the owner/possessor will be asked to leave lecture or lab immediately.

**Students with disabilities.** Students requiring classroom accommodations or modifications because of documented disabilities should discuss this need with their instructor at the beginning of the semester. Disabled students who are not registered with the Access Office should contact the Access Office in Farber Hall, telephone (229) 245-2498, VP (229) 375-5871.

## TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE WITH READING ASSIGNMENTS

### **Week of Jan. 11**

First Day of Class – Mon., Jan. 11  
Introduction to the Course  
What is a Plant?  
Chapter 1: The Science of Plant Systematics (PS)  
Lab: Introduction to the Herbarium & Preparation of Vouchers

### **Week of Jan. 18**

Chapter 2: Methods and Principles of Biological Systematics (PS)  
M.L. King Holiday – Mon., Jan. 18  
Lab: Introduction to the Virtual Herbarium & other On-line Resources

### **Week of Jan. 25**

Chapter 3: Classification and System in Flowering Plants: Historical Background (PS)  
Lab: Using the Herbarium

### **Week of Feb. 1**

Chapter 4: Taxonomic Evidence: Structural & Biochemical Characters (PS)  
Lab: Introduction to Angiosperms

### **Week of Feb. 8**

Chapter 5: The Evolution of Plant Diversity (PS)  
Lab: Analysis of Plant Structure & Identification Using Dichotomous Keys in a Floristic Manual (GVP)  
*\*\*Saturday, Feb. 13, 8:00 AM–5:00 PM, Wolf Creek NA, vic. Cairo\*\**

### **Week of Feb. 15**

Chapter 6: An Overview of Green Plant Diversity (PS)  
Lab: Seedless Vascular Plants – Lycophytes & Monilophytes (GVP)

### **Week of Feb. 22**

Chapter 7: Lycophytes, Ferns & Gymnosperms (PS)  
Lab: Gymnosperms (GVP)

### **Week of Feb. 29**

Chapter 8: Phylogenetic Relationships of Angiosperms (PS)  
Lab: Analysis & Identification of Unknowns  
Midterm – Mar. 3

### **Week of Mar. 7**

Chapter 8: Phylogenetic Relationships of Angiosperms (PS)  
Lab: Analysis & Identification of Unknowns  
Withdrawal Deadline – Thursday, Mar. 10

### **Week of Mar. 14**

Spring Break: Monday, Mar. 14 – Friday, Mar. 18

### **Week of Mar. 21**

Chapter 8: Phylogenetic Relationships of Angiosperms (PS)  
Lab: Analysis & Identification of Unknowns (GVP)  
*\*\*Saturday, 26 Mar., 8:00 AM–8:00 PM Broxton Rocks NP, Flat Tub WMA, vic. Douglas\*\**

### **Week of Mar. 28**

Chapter 8: Phylogenetic Relationships of Angiosperms (PS)  
ASB Meeting, Mar. 31 – Apr. 1: Scheduled lecture and lab meetings will be cancelled, and alternative assessments will be given to make up for cancellations.

### **Week of Apr. 4**

Chapter 8: Phylogenetic Relationships of Angiosperms (PS)  
Lab: Field Trip to Lake Louise FS (GVP)

### **Week of Apr. 11**

Chapter 8: Phylogenetic Relationships of Angiosperms (PS)  
Lab: Analysis & Identification of Unknowns (GVP)  
*\*\*Saturday, 16 Apr., 8:00 AM–8:00 PM, Georgia Botanical Society field trip of choice\*\**

### **Week of Apr. 18**

Chapter 8: Phylogenetic Relationships of Angiosperms (PS)  
Lab: Analysis & Identification of Unknowns (GVP)  
*\*\*Friday–Sunday, 22–24 April, depart 11:00 AM Fri, return 9:00 PM Sun, UGAMI, Sapelo Island\*\**

### **Week of Apr. 25**

Chapter 8: Phylogenetic Relationships of Angiosperms (PS)  
Lab: Field Trip to Lake Louise FS (GVP)

### **Week of May 2**

Last Class Day – Mon., May 2  
Final Exam – Tues., May 3, 10:15 AM – 12:15 PM