

Syllabus

Professor: Dr. Steven J. Wolf

Office: Naraghi 269

Office Hours: MW10:00 - 11:30 am, and by appointment.

Phone: Office: 667-3489. Field Trips: 202-3093. Please contact your instructor via email unless it is an emergency.

Email: swolf@csustan.edu Email is for setting up an appointment, or for questions with very short answers. Please ask complex questions during lecture/lab or office hours. Emails without "Boty 3700" in the subject will not be acknowledged. Questions regarding grades and/or those answered on the syllabus will not be acknowledged.

Lecture/lab: TR 8:00 - 11:50 a.m. in N-210.

Required materials: The Jepson Manual, Higher Plants of California edited by Hickman. Any student who does not have this book on February 8 will be dropped from the course. You must also purchase a hand lens, also called a magnifying loop (available at the bookstore for about \$10), and always bring it to class and the field. Unless you buy it at the bookstore do not buy it until after the first class. It is **not** a magnifying glass.

Class Web Page: <http://arnica.csustan.edu/boty3700> Visit it often and use the resources provided.

Lab: No food or drinks are permitted in the lab. Although students may work together it is expected that each student will have and use a microscope.

Teaching philosophy: "Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will eat for a lifetime" - Confucius. Your instructor is here to teach you to fish, i.e. think. You are expected to consult your Jepson Manual, lecture notes, and other resources during laboratory exercises, to study regularly, and to consult your text and notes when you have a question. Your instructor will be happy to answer questions once you have made an honest effort to do so on your own. A question may sometimes be answered with a question, or your fellow classmates may be called upon to help answer it. This is to lead you to the answer, not embarrass you. You are only asked to make an honest effort to answer the question. However, if you are not keeping up with the material then you may indeed be embarrassed.

Important Dates:

February 15 - No class, ID Trail video assignment

February 23 - Last day to drop the course

March 21 - 25 - Spring break, no classes

March 31 - Cesar Chavez Day - no class

May 12 - Plant press must be returned by 11:50 am.

May 17 - 11:50 am, last time your instructor will assist with your collection

May 24 - Final exam, 8:30 am. Plant collection due at 8:30 am.

Out of Class Assignment February 15: Watch 12 videos on [Intelligent Design trial](#) and hand in question worksheet worth 10 pts. by **March 1 at 8:00 am.**

Question Worksheet for Intelligent Design (ID) trial: [Click here](#) to download as a pdf file. Requires free [Acrobat Reader](#).

Grading: Your grade will be derived from several (8 - 10), 20 pt. "quizams", a plant collection worth 100 pts., final exam, worth 100 pts., and only if the class is not keeping up, short unannounced quizzes. The instructor reserves the right to give unannounced quizzes if it becomes apparent that students are not keeping up with the material and/or there are an unacceptable number of absences. If you happen to be absent that day you will receive a grade of 0 for that quiz.

Lecture Schedule: A few more short topics may be added.

Science
Do's and Don'ts
History of Plant Taxonomy
Systematics
Cladistics
Floral Terminology
Floral Formulas
Fruits
Fruit Key
Vegetative morphology
Identification Keys
Field Techniques
What Not To Collect
Download And Install Google Earth
Topo Maps, GPS, Google Earth

Plant Families
Herbarium Techniques
Plant Nomenclature

Note: much of our schedule is determined by the flowering season. Listed below are the qizam topics, you will receive a one week notice prior to each.

"Quizams" (20 pts. each)		
Covers	Value	Date
Introduction	20	
Cladistics	20	
ID Trial	20	
Floral Terminology	20	
Fruits	20	
Vegetative Morphology	20	
Plant Families	20	
Photo Family ID	10	
Nomenclature	20	
In class keying		Only if students are not keeping up

Grading	
Quizams	8 - 10 @ 20 = 160 - 200 pts
ID Trial Worksheet	10 pts.

Plant collection	100 pts.
Final Exam, May 24	100 pts.
Quizzes	??@ 5 pts.
Total	370 - 410 + any quizzes

The instructor also reserves the right to reduce your grade due to excessive absences and/or tardiness. You will receive only one warning. Each successive warning will result in 20 points being deducted from your grade total.

Grades: A = 100-90%, B = 89.9-80%, C = 79.9-70%, D = 69.9-60%, F = <60%.

Plant Collection: The following rules apply to the plant collection. A total of 50 different species, representing at least 10 different families, is required. No more than five (5) specimens may be woody plants. No cultivated, domesticated, nor common weeds may be included. May 17, at 11:50 pm, is the last time your instructor will assist with your collection. The **completed** collection (mounted specimens) is due by 8:30 am on May 24. Grades will be reduced one letter grade per day late (including weekends).

Plant press: You will be issued a plant press for use throughout the semester. It must be returned in good condition **before** your instructor will proof read your labels. Plant presses must be returned by 11:50 pm May 12. Failure to do so will result in a grade of F for the class, you will be assessed a \$75 fee, and a hold will be placed on all your academic records.

Cheating: There is a zero tolerance policy. Any cheating whatsoever will result in an automatic F in the class and the matter will be turned over to the appropriate student disciplinary committee. Using plant specimens you did not collect and/or falsifying locality data, or any part of your collection is considered cheating.

Course Objectives: This course is primarily designed to give you practical, hands on experience in the collection and identification of flowering plants. This requires a detailed knowledge of structural botany as well as an understanding of the principles and methods of plant classification. About one half of the course will consist of field trips and collecting, identifying and preparing herbarium specimens. The other half will consist of instruction in structural botany and plant classification. Since your text is primarily an identification manual, it contains little information on plant classification. Most lectures will cover topics not covered in your Jepson Manual. Therefore, perfect attendance is a necessity if you expect to pass the course.

Computers: Download and install the free [Google Earth](#) program on your computer. We will use it in class. Computers play an ever increasing role in the biological sciences. In addition to a strong background in biology, most field and environmentally oriented positions require experience and/or knowledge of collection and identification techniques as well as computer word processing and database programs. There is also a wealth of biological information available via the Internet and you may be required to complete assignments using computers. Please make sure your email account is current on your "Mycsustan" account, as you may receive emails throughout the semester.

Field Trips: Five field trips will be taken during class time. Departure times will be 8:00 am **sharp**. Always dress appropriately, wear sturdy shoes, and bring your hand lens and collecting equipment (not your plant press). Most field trips require little more than moderate walking on gradual grades. Please consult your instructor the first day of class should you have any health concerns. No alcoholic beverages, drugs or smoking are allowed on field trips. Students **must** ride in university vehicles. Field trips are optional, however you must notify Dr. Wolf at least 24 hours prior to field trip departure if you plan not to participate. **Failure to do so will adversely affect your grade.** **Note:** it is illegal to collect any plant in California. We have permission to collect in the areas we visit. Therefore, it is to your advantage to attend the field trips. We may encounter a few rare plants on our field tips, however, you will be forewarned which ones not to collect. So please pay attention.

Field Trips (depart at 8:00 am)	
Date	Place
March 15	Red Hills
March 29	Owl Creek, east of Oakdale
April 12	Del Puerto Canyon
April 26	Lake McSwain
May 3	Red Hills

The above schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.