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.Class begins at 8 am. 20 points will be deducted from your grade for excessive tardiness and/or absences. You will receive only one warning.

Note: This is a field course and there are no alternative assignments to substitute for the field trips. If you are unwilling, or physically unable to participate in field trips then you should not take this course.

Course Prerequisites: Successful completion of Biol 1050 and Biol 1150 or equivalents. Ag Studies majors may substitute the Biology pre-requisite courses necessary for entrance into their major. Any student who has not met these pre-requisites will receive an F in the course regardless of what grades they receive in the class. **February 2 is the last date to add any course at CSU Stanislaus**.

Required materials: The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California, **Second Edition**, By Baldwin et. al. **No other identification manuals or flower books are permitted in the lab.** You must use your Jepson Manual to identify your plants. Any student who does not have the Jepson Manual at 8 am on February 7 will be dropped from the course. You must also purchase a hand lens, also called a magnifying loop (available at the bookstore), 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.

Recommended Materials: If you have a cell phone it is strongly recommended that you install a GPS application. If you are a field oriented person it is highly recommended that you purchase a GPS designed for trail (not automobile) use. Your instructor can offer advice and/or direct you to resources to assist you in purchasing such a unit.

Lab: No food or drinks are permitted in the lab. Turn off your cell phones. Although students may work together it is expected that each student will have and use a microscope. It is expected that you clean up your workspace before leaving the lab. A 20 point penalty will be assessed for those who do not do so.

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 9 - Cladistics assignment due
February 14 - No class, ID trial video assignment
February 16 - ID trial worksheet due
February 22 - Last day to drop the course
April 9 - 13 - Spring break, no classes
May 3 - Plant press must be returned by 11:50 am.
May 15 - 11:50 am, last time your instructor will assist with your collection
May 17 - Final exam, 8:30 am. Plant collection due at 8:30 am.

Out of Class Assignment February 14: Watch video on Intelligent Design trial and hand in question worksheet worth 10 pts. on February 16 at 8 a.m.

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 a few short assignments. 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
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
Plant Nomenclature
Herbarium Techniques

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/Science	20	Feb. 3
Cladistics	20	
ID Trial	20	Feb. 21
Floral Terminology	20	
Fruits	20	
Vegetative Morphology	20	
Plant Families	20	
Plant Nomenclature	20	
In class keying		TBA

Grading	
Quizams	160 pts
ID Trial worksheet	10 pts.
Cladistics worksheet	10 pts.
Plant collection	100 pts.
Final Exam, May 17 8:30 - 10:00 am	100 pts.
Other assignments	?
Quizzes	?
Total	**380 + assignments/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 15, 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 17. 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 3. 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. Using plant specimens you did not collect and/or falsifying locality data, or any part of your collection is considered cheating. Helping another student cheat is also considered cheating. Taking out a cell phone during a quiz/exam is considered cheating, your exam will be confiscated, and you will receive a grade of F **for the course.**

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 13	Red Hills
March 27	Owl Creek, east of Oakdale
April 3	Del Puerto Canyon
April 17	Lake McSwain
April 24	Red Hills

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