

# Spring 2021 Plant Sciences 321

## Landscape Plant ID/Tax/Morph II

**Instructor:** Dr. Andrew (Andy) Pulte  
**Office:** 268 Ellington Plant Science Building  
**Phone:** 865-974-8820  
**e-mail:** pulte@utk.edu  
**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Lecture/Lab:** 4:30 – 5:45 PM, Tuesday and Thursday –Section 1 and 2

**Location:** South Greenhouse Classroom.

**Course Web Site:** <http://online.utk.edu>

You may obtain an **Online account** at: <http://online.utk.edu/account/>

This website will provide you with general announcements and other important course information.

**Required Text: (1) Manual of Woody Landscape Plants. Michael A. Dirr. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition (2009), Stipes Publishing. (or the app.)**

**(2) Manual of Herbaceous Ornamental Plants, 3rd or 4th Edition by Steven Still 1994, Stipes Publishing**

**Or**

**Herbaceous Perennial Plants, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4th Edition by Allan Armitage, Stipes Publishing**

## **Suggested Test:**

Armitage's Manual of Annuals, Biennials, and Half-Hardy Perennials, by Allan Armitage 2001, Timber Press

Dirr's Encyclopedia of Trees and Shrubs, 2011, Timber Press, Michael Dirr,

The Well-Designed Mixed Garden by Tracy DiSabato-Aust 2003, Timber Press

**Purpose:** The primary objective of this course is to enable the student to identify by scientific and common name about 150 (+/-) species and/or varieties of ornamental trees, and shrubs. Additionally herbaceous ornamental plants comprised of summer and fall bulbs, annuals, perennials, herbs, and ornamental grasses will be covered. Gardening practices and design elements will be discussed to teach successful and effective use of these plant materials in the garden/landscape. The plants learned will be valuable plants that are most often used for landscaping purposes in the South Eastern United States (climatic zones 6, 7, and 8). You will also be introduced to other related subjects such as: plant growth requirements, taxonomic and botanical terminology, and basic uses of the plants in landscape designs.

**Responsibilities:** Students will be expected to develop understanding and skill in the following areas:

1. Identification of selected tree and shrub and herbaceous species on the basis of leaf, stem, fruit, flower, dormant twig, bark and whole plant characteristics.
2. Correct usage of scientific names and terminology to describe plant species.
3. Basic knowledge of ornamental characteristics and environmental adaptability of important native and introduced plant species relating to their use in specific landscape situations.
4. Ability to obtain cultural and descriptive information on plant materials from literature and other resources.

**Class Tests:** Approximately 5 plant identification tests will be given. Each test will consist of both newly presented plants to identify as well as plants from previous tests. Tests will also be cumulative, meaning that plants from previous tests will also be included. Each test will be worth 200 points. No make-up tests will be given under any circumstances during the regular class calendar. However, for those students who **have missed one test and have had excused absences**, a make-up exam could be arranged for the final exam period scheduled in the timetable. This must be arranged for in advance and approved by the instructor. This final make-up exam will be cumulative, with plant material from the whole semester.

**Late Policy:** 10% will be deducted off the final grade for every day an assignment is late. The one exception will be your Excel project, which I will not accept late.

**30 Point Quizzes:** We will also have ~five, (30) point quizzes throughout the semester. These quizzes will not be pop quizzes and will be over practical information on the plants we cover.

**Pop Quizzes:** During every class period there is a chance to have a pop quiz on previously tested plants, ID terms or plant characteristics. These quizzes will have a point value of 10 or more points.

**Project:** You will have one major project you will need to complete during the semester. This is an excel spreadsheet of all of the plants you have learned throughout the semester. This will allow you to search your own spreadsheet for different plants to use in different situations. A template you are to use for this assignment is available in the course documents/materials section of the course site on blackboard ([online.utk.edu](http://online.utk.edu)). This assignment will be worth 250 points and will be due on (Check Schedule for date) before Midnight (11:59 PM). This needs to be submitted electronically through email to [pulte@utk.edu](mailto:pulte@utk.edu). This must be submitted as an excel document using the file format listed on the assignments page.

**Plant Info Sheets:** You will also have a second minor project; this will involve doing a one page write-ups on and a pressing of a plant. This is worth 50 points. These will be due to my office/mailbox by 5 PM, (Check Schedule for date). Please provide me with a **color copies** in my mailbox.

**\*\*\*\* This semester students will be schedule to come on specific days for plant walks. Plant Walks:** Plant walks are required and taken during most class periods to learn to ID plant material in the field. Dress properly for the weather each day and bring your plant list to check off new plants. Be prepared for inclement weather; so bring pencils (ink will run when wet) and an umbrella on those days. While it may be tempting to take samples of the plant material as they are presented, this practice is highly discouraged by the instructor. Many of the plant specimens are either very small or are found in locations where taking samples is not appropriate. Students will need to go to the landscape locations of the specimens to study them. It is suggested that students either purchase (UT Bookstore) or borrow a 10X eyepiece for use in locating identifying characters of the plants. You may also wish to have a clip-board to help you out in the field.

**Grading:** A = (93 - 100), A - (90 - 92) B+ = (87 - 89), B = (83 - 86), B - (80 - 82), C+ = 77 -79, C = 73 -76, C - 70 -72, D = 60 - 69, F < 60

**ODS:** Students needing special assistants or accommodations should contact UT's Office of Disability Services

Contact ODS

2227 Dunford Hall  
Knoxville, TN 37996-4020

Phone: 865-974-6087 (v/tty)  
Fax: 865-974-9552  
E-mail: ods@utk.edu

**\*\*\*\* During Spring 2021 some classes will happen asynchronously and some will be synchronous - Attendance:** Every class is mandatory and you must have spoken with or left a message for the instructor before the class period if you plan on being absent.

**Attire:** Again, please dress for the weather, class periods will be held regardless of weather conditions. Also, it is preferred that hats are not worn in the classroom, and **no hats** will be allowed during test days.

**Tobacco:** No tobacco use in the classroom or during plant walks

**Phones Etc.: Use your phones if it helps you during plant walks -** No phones inside the classroom period. If you have an emergency situation, please tell me before class. No Watches at all during test days

**E-Mail:** Email is one of the best ways to get in touch with me. But please make sure all emails are written in a professional business-like fashion.

**Academic Honesty:** The honor code is in effect and you are expected to follow it.

**UT honor code statement:**

*An essential feature of The University of Tennessee is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As a student of the University, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity.*

Each student is responsible for his/her own personal integrity in academic life. While there is no affirmative duty to report the academic dishonesty of another, each student, given the dictates of his/her own conscience, may choose to act on any violation of the Honor Statement. Each student is responsible for knowing the terms and conditions of the Honor Statement and may acknowledge his/her adherence to the Honor Statement

by writing "Pledged" and signing each graded class assignment and examination.

Students are also responsible for any act of plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the intellectual property or product of someone else without giving proper credit. The undocumented use of someone else's words or ideas in any medium of communication (unless such information is recognized as common knowledge) is a serious offense,

subject to disciplinary action that may include failure in a course and/or dismissal from the University. Specific examples of plagiarism are:

1. Copying without proper documentation (quotation marks and a citation) written or spoken words, phrases, or sentences from any source;
2. Summarizing without proper documentation (usually a citation) ideas from another source (unless such information is recognized as common knowledge);
3. Borrowing facts, statistics, graphs, pictorial representations, or phrases without acknowledging the source (unless such information is recognized as common knowledge);
4. Collaborating on a graded assignment without the instructor's approval;
5. Submitting work, either in whole or in part, created by a professional service and used without attribution (e.g., paper, speech, bibliography, or photograph).

Faculty members also have responsibilities which are vital to the success of the Honor Statement and the creation of a climate of academic integrity within the University community. Each faculty member is responsible for defining, in specific terms, guidelines for preserving academic integrity in a course. Included in this definition

should be a discussion of the Honor Statement. Faculty members, at their discretion, may also encourage their students to acknowledge adherence to the Honor Statement by "pledging" all graded class assignments and exams. The form of pledge may include writing the Honor Statement on the assignment, signing the printed Statement, or simply writing "Pledged." Additionally, it will be the responsibility of each faculty member, graduate teaching assistant, and staff member to act on any violation of the Honor Statement. It is also incumbent upon faculty to maintain an atmosphere conducive to academic integrity by insuring that each quiz, test, and exam is adequately proctored.

Each administrator has the responsibility to maintain the Honor Statement and its associated review process.

**More on E-Mail:** Each student should have a working UTK e-mail address. The instructor and section TA's will use e-mail to keep students up-to-date on class information.

**Canvas: YOU** are responsible for knowing how to use Canvas including how to submit assignments on the site.

This Syllabus: This document is subject to change at anytime at the discretion of the instructor.

**Finally:** This is a statement made by Dr. Taylor Field in the department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology in the College of Arts and Sciences. I echo what he has said in this statement about one of his classes.

"Finally, I hope this will be a course that makes you think and that it will be one that you enjoy. You will see more plants in your lifetime than any other organism. For most people, plants are a green haze, not many take the time to look at them, think about how they work, or where they came from. I hope that this course will help cure "plant blindness" and give you a greater appreciation of plants."

"This syllabus is subject to change. The most current course syllabus will be available within the Course Canvas site."

"Unusual circumstances may result in a change of teaching modality."

## **SOCIAL DISTANCING & COVID-19 PROCEDURES**

Students are required to wear face masks at all times and maintain social distancing (6 feet between individuals in traditional classrooms, or, in instructional laboratories and similar settings, only a few minutes in closer proximity when absolutely necessary to achieve learning objectives). Students who are feeling ill or experiencing symptoms such as sneezing, coughing, or a higher than normal temperature will be excused from class and should stay at home.

Instructors have the right to ask those who are not complying with these requirements to leave class in the interest of everyone's health and safety. In the event that a student refuses to comply with these requirements, the instructor has the right to cancel class.

Additionally, following other simple practices will promote good health in and out of the classroom, such as frequent and thorough hand washing, wiping down desks and seats with disinfectant wipes whenever possible, not sharing personal items such as pens and cell phones, and avoiding crowded hallways and other enclosed spaces.

The Volunteer Creed reminds us that we bear the torch in order to give light to others. As Volunteers, we commit to caring for one another and for the members of the communities in which we live, work, and learn. This semester, the University asks that we all demonstrate the Volunteer spirit by following these and other health guidelines and requirements.