

Fall 2020 Plant Sciences 115  
Section 402  
Plants That Changed the World

**Zoom Link -**

<https://oit.utk.edu/teachingtools/liveonline/zoom-getting-started/> (Links to an external site.)

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/94226035649> (Links to an external site.)

**Password: PLSC115**

Or iPhone one-tap (US Toll): +13126266799,94226035649# or +16468769923,94226035649#

Or Telephone:

Dial:

+1 312 626 6799 (US Toll)

+1 646 876 9923 (US Toll)

+1 301 715 8592 (US Toll)

+1 346 248 7799 (US Toll)

+1 669 900 6833 (US Toll)

+1 253 215 8782 (US Toll)

Fall 2020 Plant Sciences 115 Section - Plants That Changed the World

**Tues/Thurs. 11:30-12:45 - South Greenhouse Or On Zoom**

**Instructor:** Dr. Andrew Pulte

**Office:** 267 Ellington Plant Science Building

**Phone:** 865-974-8820

**e-mail:** pulte@utk.edu

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Course Description:**

Introduction to a wide variety of plants used in different cultures and society to enhance health, beautify surroundings and facilitate recreational activities. Exploration of how cultures value trees, flowers, vegetables, fruits, herbs and grasses, with emphasis on landscaping, people/plant interactions, sports turf, organic gardening and nutrition. Students will be exposed to broad global perspectives on plants that have changed the world and the people who live in it.

**Course Objectives:**

- Understand the impact plants have made on people and cultures over time
- Develop an appreciation and understanding of different world-wide cultures that have been impacted by specific plants
- Understand cultural differences pertaining to plants and their uses
- Use appropriate nomenclature to name and describe plants.
- Understand why and how botanical Latin is used with plants.
- Visually identify selected plants used for health, aesthetics, and recreation.
- Identify and explain landmark periods in garden history.
- Identify the various disciplines that utilize plants to enhance society.
- Demonstrate an awareness of current trends, occupations, and practices within those disciplines.
- Demonstrate an awareness of traditional, folkloric, and modern uses of ornamental, medicinal, and turf plants.

**Cultural Component:**

This class is designed to present you with information on plants and their impact on different cultures and society over time. This will be accomplished by looking at specific plants that have made major impacts on human history. We will not just look at the plants, but the lives of those who felt their impact. Throughout the class we will focus on a variety of global communities that have been impacted by specific plants. One course objective is to improve your ability to function effectively in the global community of the twenty-first century by developing an appreciation for historical and cultural diversity. This will be accomplished by looking at specific plants and how people across the world use them for not just food but also recreation and beauty.

**Geographical Regions:** This class will cover plants and cultural relationships throughout the world. However, North America, Northern Africa, Europe and Southeast Asia will receive particular focus.

**Text:**

There is no required text for this class. You will receive reading assignments on black board as .pdf documents. Segments from some of the following are likely to appear as part of your reading assignments.

- Public Garden Management, Donald Rakow
- Plants and Society, Estelle Levetin
- The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World, Michael Pollan
- Fifty Plants that Changed the Course of History, Bill Laws
- An Empire of Plants, Toby and Will Musgrave

**Recommended additional materials:**

A camera (digital or film); index cards may be useful for plant ID and some assignments.

**Method of Instruction:**

This course is taught primarily through lectures using power point presentations, videos, and class discussions. Field observation of selected plants will be a required portion of this course. Additionally, out of classroom tours of a variety of sites related to the class will be visited and attendance required (unless otherwise noted). Students are expected to participate in tours, listen, and take notes as well as wear appropriate attire for all outdoor activities. Periodically, guest lecturers with particular discipline expertise will be invited to present applicable course material.

**Grading:**

Quizzes, Book Reports, and Additional Writing Assignments: 10%

- There will be weekly quizzes over reading homework or short writing assignments

Reflective Writing Assignments: 30%

- You will be asked to write three reflective papers on a specific plant or groups of plants that have impacted human culture and society. One of these reflections must specifically focus on a plant that is noteworthy for a reason other than food consumption and has been, or is, vilified or celebrated by a specific culture.

Tests: 50% \*\*\*Testing format will depend on modality and this is subject to change

- You will have three tests during the semester based on lecture information and plant identification.

Plant Notebook: 10%

- Your final assignment is a catalog of all of the plants you have learned throughout the semester. You are required to catalog every plant learned photographically, explain cultural information on each plant and reflect on how and why each plant changed the world or is valued in a particular culture.

\*\*\* All of the above grading information should be taken as approximations, the above is a goal and is subject to change. Percentages may change throughout the semester as the course develops. Additionally, the possibility of other categories being added or deleted is possible.

**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 Fall 2020, most events but not all will be recorded for those who miss a class.** **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 or field trips

**Phones:** No phones in class. If you have an emergency situation please tell me before class. If we are outside, please use your phone, whatever you need to do to learn. Upload your favorite pictures to social media using the hashtag #UTKPLSC

**Laptops:** No Laptop use in class unless you are told they will be needed

**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.

### **PLSC 115: Assessment & Delivery Information**

Course Delivery: The primary delivery method of this course is lecture. The primary instructor, as well as additional experts from The Plant Sciences department deliver the principal content. Every lecture is structured essentially the same way, with learning objectives for every lecture that point back to the impact on people and society over time. One reoccurring theme of

lectures is “plants that changed history.” Additionally, time is spent outdoors, primarily in the UT Gardens observing plants.

**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 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.

**Student Assistance:**

Students should feel free and are encouraged to ask for assistance from the instructor if they do not understand an assignment or topic, or would like further information. Periodic study sessions for plant ID tests will be offered and students are encouraged to attend. Locations and times will be announced in class.

**Finally:** This is a statement made by Dr. Taylor Feild 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."

**Assignment: Plant Notebook. \*\*\*This is something that needs to be physically turned in, if modality changes it may need to be mailed to the instructor.**

**Points: 150**

**Purpose:**

Throughout the semester we will be learning to identify and name several plants that are important for a variety of cultures and used for aesthetics, health, and/or recreation. The purpose of this assignment is to organize and formalize your study of these plants. Keeping and recording notes and images of these plants will help you become a better observer of the landscape and should serve as a device to help remember the plants we study.

**General Overview:**

For each plant that we study you will be required to have an image of the plant and a record of the name and characteristics of the plant. Additionally, you will develop a paragraph to be paired with each plant demonstrating your knowledge of each plant's cultural significance.

**Plant Image:**

The image of the plant can be a photograph, an accurate drawing and/or a pressed (dried) sample. No images from the internet! It is often best to get a closeup and a distance shot of the plant.

**Plant Records:** The following minimum information must be included with each sample:

Scientific name: *Genus* and *species*

Common name:

Category: e.g. tree, shrub, vegetable, turf grass, herb, interior plant, florists' flower

Height: in typical use

Light requirement:

Bloom color: if applicable

Bloom/ fruiting period: if applicable

Landscape / Herbal/ Historic Use:

5-9 Sentences on your impression of the plant, any historical information you have gathered or any additional interesting facts about the plant.

Additional notes:

Points are earned for

- complete (all plants on all lists included)
- image
- minimum information, as above
- accuracy
  
- typed not handwritten
- neat and clean
- well-organized
- material is referenced

Grade can improve by adding the following:

- more than one photo identifying characteristics
- location on campus or where photo was taken
  
- more in-depth identification characteristics
- more historic or cultural information

**\*\*\*This is a final project, it should be of the quality of something that has been worked on throughout the semester.**

Sources for accurate information:

Books:

- Armitage, *Herbaceous Perennial Plants*; SB 434.A76 1989
- Hole's *Dictionary of Hardy Perennials*; SB434.H65 2006
- *Annuals for every Purpose*; AG VET SB 422.H64 2002
- *The House Plant Encyclopedia*;SB 419.J34 1997
- *The Hiller's Manual to Trees and Shrubs*; AG VET SB 435.H54 2002
- *Fresh Flowers: Identifying, Selecting, and Arranging* ;SB 449.F525 1992
- Dirr, *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*; SB435.5 D57 1998
- Armitage, *Armitage's Garden Annuals* SB422.A68 2004
- Armitage, *Speciality Cut Flowers* SB405.A68 2003
- *Vegetables, Herbs, and Fruits: Illustrated Encyclopedia* SB320.9 B55 2006
- Small, *Culinary Herbs* SB 351.H5 S63 2006

\*Notice that many of the above books are in the SB section of the AG VET Library it's a good section to browse and find other sources as well.

\*You can often find the info you need quickly in these references and don't need to check them out which allows others to use them as well.



Online:

- <http://plants.usda.gov/> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.
- <http://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/index.asp> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.
- <http://www.seedsanctuary.com/herbs/index.cfm> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.
- <http://www.floridata.com/index.cfm> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.
- <http://davesgarden.com/guides/pf/> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.
- <http://www.pfaf.org/> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

\*Always be aware of the source so that information is accurate and reliable. The source of all of your information should be listed for each plant or in a reference section.

“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.

**Your Schedule:**

Date:	What is Going On?	Where is Class Being Held?
8/20	Welcome	Zoom
8/25	Plants and People	Zoom
8/27	The Environment a Historical Perspective	All online assignment
9/1	TBA	Zoom
9/3	Corn	Zoom
9/8	Irish Potato	Zoom
9/10	Sweet potato/Yam	Zoom
9/15	Book Club + Plant Walk	Group A & B Meet @ UT Gardens Front Entrance at 11:30 / Group C & D Meet at Gardens Front Entrance at @12:15
9/17	Book Club + Plant Walk	Group E & F Meet @ UT Gardens Front Entrance at 11:30 / Group G & H Meet at Gardens Front Entrance at @12:15
9/22	Chocolate and CSA	Zoom
9/24	Global Biodiversity	Zoom + Test 1 Released Online
9/29	Book Club + Plant Walk	Group A & B Meet @ UT Gardens Front Entrance at 11:30 / Group C & D Meet at Gardens Front Entrance at @12:15
10/01	Book Club + Plant Walk	Group E & F Meet @ UT Gardens Front Entrance at 11:30 / Group G & H Meet at Gardens Front Entrance at @12:15
10/6	Peas and Paths	Zoom
10/8	Olives and Grapes	Zoom

10/13	Internships and Horticulture	Zoom
10/15	TBA	Zoom
10/20	Book Report Day 1	Zoom
10/22	Urban Forestry	Zoom
10/27	Turf	Zoom
10/29	Sports Turf	Zoom + Test 2 Released Online
11/03	Hops	Zoom
11/05	Landscape Architecture	Zoom
11/10		
11/12		
11/17	Groups A,B,C,D Book Presentations	Zoom
11/19	Groups E,F,G,H Book Presentations	Zoom
11/24		
Reflective Writing Paper 1	9/10	
Reflective Writing Paper 2	10/6	
Reflective Writing Paper 3	11/10	