

PSC 2620

SPRING
2016
ONLINE



SPRING 2016 . UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY . DISTANCE EDUCATION 'ONLINE' SEMESTER COURSE

PSC 2620 Introduction to Woody Trees and Shrubs

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I. Course Description:

In this course you will learn the common woody trees and shrubs currently in use in the industry. You will also learn about various other topics related to the use, identification, production and care of trees and shrubs. The course consists of a series of plant lists, which need to be memorized, and several lectures.

II. Learning Objectives:

Upon complete of this course be able:

- Identify any number of tree or shrub species, including their names, characteristics and best uses.
- Be familiar with and be able to identify individual cultivars.
- Be aware of the major pests and diseases associated with woody tree and shrubs.
- Understand the commercial nursery system including information regarding development, production and sales of woody trees and shrubs.
- Recognize appropriate landscape uses for the plants.

III. Course Components:

Course Content: The course content can be accessed through a link of Blackboard. A username and password is required to access the course content in Blackboard and this information will be provided to the student in Blackboard.

1) *Lectures.* Each week contains a lecture addressing an issue related to the course and/or the horticulture industry. These lectures are presented by means of a video and audio recording of a Power Point presentation.

2) *Weekly Assignments:*

i) *Plant List.* In most weeks there will be a plant list of trees and shrubs that the student will be responsible to learn and memorize. Any information contained within the text, video or other multimedia element of each plant page is testable material.

ii) *Quiz.* Nearly each week contains a timed quiz on material from the current and prior week's lectures and plant lists. Students will have 15 minutes to complete the quizzes. **Answers will not be accepted after the 20 minute time limit has expired. All quizzes are closed book.** If the student is particularly concerned with an question or answer in a quiz, it is the **student's responsibility** to contact the instructor.

iii) *Plant Identification Quizzes.* There are five plant identification quizzes over the course of the semester. These consist of images that a student must use to correctly identify a tree or shrub. Each student has 15 minutes to complete the quiz. **Answers will not be accepted after the 20 minute time limit has expired. All quizzes are closed book.** If the student has any concerns regarding a quiz image or answer, it is the **student's responsibility** to contact the instructor.

iv) *Midterm and Final.* A midterm and final exam will be administered during the course. Each is comprehensive of the material that the student learned up to that point. Students will have 90 minutes to complete the midterm and final. **Answers will not be accepted after the 90 minute time limit has expired. All exams are closed book.** If the student is particularly concerned with an question or answer in a quiz, it is the **student's responsibility** to contact the instructor.

Calendar: A visual reference that lists weekly topics, due dates, and holidays.

Communication: This section includes the course discussion board, chat rooms, and class email. Students can e-mail or 'chat' with the instructor or other students and allows students work in groups online. By communicating through the course website, any emails, discussions and chat conversations will be accessible to all students in the course. As part of the course learning experience, you will be asked to respond to questions and other posts, and encouraged to work through material on the course discussion board. Private email or phone calls will be available for communicating information about grades or for individual conferences.

IV. Student Responsibilities:

Complete lessons and assignments on time. This course requires **significant self-motivation**. Successful students - those that get A's, B's, and C's - use their time efficiently. Find out what your learning style is by taking this brief QUIZ (www.metamath.com/lswweb/dvcclearn.htm). Along with the results, you will receive tips on how best to study given your learning style. You may want to print out and save these tips to reference throughout your college career! Check out what to expect as an online student: <http://www.ion.illinois.edu/resources/tutorials/pedagogy/StudentProfile.asp>

Please plan your study time so you keep up with weekly assignments. Students are responsible for being aware of any announcements and changes to the class schedule. Allow yourself an average of 8 hours per lesson (8 hrs/week) to complete the lessons online, including the time spent studying. Please note that some lessons and assignments may take more time than others. As you progress through the course, lessons will likely take less time as you become more familiar with the structure and flow of the class and as you build your learning and thinking skills.

Some people believe distance learning is a much easier way to study than as a lecture class; others may feel intimidated at first. Be patient as you work your way through the first few lessons, and muffle your self-critic. Uncertainty is part of learning new ideas and skills - it means you are challenging yourself! If you investigate your topics thoroughly and are serious about the material, you will learn as much or more than most on campus students about landscape architecture *and* develop the reading and communication skills necessary for future academic and real-world success.

Interact with others respectfully: Professionalism is expected of you because college is a professional environment; it's just like a job. This includes being aware of other students' viewpoints - be sensitive to what might offend and use appropriate language when posting to the class website. Do not discuss personal issues that are unrelated to the assigned topic on the class website or in course-related emails.

Keep in mind that it is the *issues and information* that are the basis for discussion, not the person posting to the website. Do not imply or tell people they are wrong and stupid. Do explain your difference in reasoning. If someone has the facts wrong, direct them to the source of accurate information or politely offer your alternative facts. Use of obscenities or direct insults which defame a person's character, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, etc. are inappropriate and will not be tolerated. Such abuses will result in expulsion from the course after one warning.

Maintain academic honesty. Successful students submit their own, original work. This is the way we all learn – by doing things for ourselves. Any time a student uses someone else's work in their research and does not give that person credit, it is considered plagiarism. Copying pieces of an essay or including information without citing the source is plagiarism. For helpful hints on citing references visit UToronto's helpful "How not to plagiarize" webpage (<http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html>).

Anyone who plagiarizes will receive an "F" on the assignment. If this is repeated, the student will be subject to USU academic dishonesty proceedings. If you are suspected of plagiarism, you will bear the burden of proof. You must be able to present rough drafts or related materials and discuss the topic intelligently. Students participating in cheating, plagiarism or falsification of information will be subject to sanctions and/or penalties according to USU Academic Policy (<http://www.usu.edu/policies/>).

Special Needs: If you have a physical, medical, or learning disability that may impair your ability to carry out assigned course work, please contact the staff in the Disability Resource Center at 435-797-2444 or 800-259-2966 or 435-797-0740 (TTY) so we may provide reasonable and appropriate accommodations. All information and documentation is confidential.

To drop or withdraw: *Students who choose not to continue the course are responsible for contacting USU to drop or withdraw*, either online (<http://online.usu.edu>) or at the Independent and Distance Education Office on the USU campus. Failure to officially drop the course may result in an "F". If you miss work after the deadline to drop and have an acceptable reason (like hospitalization), you can petition for an "Incomplete", which will require you to finish the coursework by a deadline arranged with the instructor.

V. Grading Policy:

A	94 and above
A-	90 - 93.9
B+	87 - 89.9
B	84 - 86.9
B-	80 - 83.9
C+	77 - 79.9
C	74 - 76.9
C-	70 - 73.9
D+	67 - 69.9
D	60 - 66.9
F	Below 60

VI. Course schedule:

This is a semester-based online course and has the same begin and end dates as the USU Spring 2012 campus semester courses. Students are responsible for knowing and adhering to due dates for readings, assignments, discussion postings and other activities. Changes to the schedule will be posted to the class website; please check the course web site for calendar changes.

Week 1 (Jan 11-15)	Learning Strategies
Week 2 (Jan 18-22)	Plant Nomenclature
Week 3 (Jan 25-29)	Identification of Woody Plant Material
Week 4 (Feb 1-5)	Plant Morphology
Week 5 (Feb 8-12)	Woody Plant Culture
Week 6 (Feb 15-19)	Ornamental Qualities of Woody Plants
Week 7 (Feb 22-26)	Specifying Plants
Week 8 (Feb 29-Mar 4)	Woody Plant Propagation & Midterm
(Mar 7-11)	Spring Break
Week 9 (Mar 14-18)	Plant Selection Criteria
Week 10 (Mar 21-25)	Public Gardens as Sources of Plant Information
Week 11 (Mar 28-Apr 1)	Industry Standards
Week 12 (Apr 4-8)	Dichotomous Keys
Week 13 (Apr 11-15)	Care & Maintenance of Woody Plants
Week 14 (Apr 18-22)	Plant ID Final
Week 15 (Apr 25-29)	Study for and take final exam