

FIELD BOTANY

PLE 2012

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Jerry G. Chmielewski

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The processes leading to the practical identification, and the application of identifications in concert with field methods are the primary focus of this field oriented course. To facilitate this experience the student will be exposed to the departmental herbarium. Its function, as well as the collection, preparation and maintenance of specimens will be explained. Terminology associated with general plant structure and floral structure will be examined. Field and lecture experiences will be supplemented with on-site visits to somewhat unique environments.

COURSE OUTCOMES: Upon completion of the course the student should be familiar with the local early summer flora of western Pennsylvania and be able to competently identify unknown plant specimens through the use of keys, newly found knowledge, and the comparison method.

REQUIRED TEXT: A Pictorial & Ethnobotanical Guide to Plants of Eastern North America (available from the instructor - cost \$50 or online for approximately \$100)

OFFICE HOURS: post 7 a.m. but pre 9 p.m. while I am at the housing complex.

COURSE GRADING:

1. **SPECIMEN COLLECTION:** You are required to collect, dry, and identify 20 collections of ferns, bryophytes, or fungi in any combination- not flowering plants. These are the end of the examination period. Your grade will be based on the correctness of the identification, quality of the dried collection, and completeness of the label information. (20 percent)

2. **QUIZZES:** At my discretion, though oftentimes daily, while we are in the field and prior to returning to the housing complex. (20percent)

3. **IDENTIFICATION FINAL:** Final meeting date. You will be required to identify digital images of plants examined in the field to genus, species, common name, family, and common family name. (40 percent)

4. **LECTURE FINAL:** Final meeting date. A written exam dealing with content discussed during formal lectures while at the field station or less formal lectures given in the field. (20 percent)

Your final grade will be the sum of the points accumulated through the aforementioned sources. Remember that you will receive the grade you earn through your efforts or lack there-of.

90 - 100% (A) 80 - 89% (B) 70 - 79% (C) 60 - 69% (D) 0 - 59% (F)

NOTE: Grades will be adjusted for schools with +/- grading

Be prepared to walk. Dress for the conditions. Whining is not permitted!