

**University of Central Florida**  
**Biology Department**  
**MEDICAL BOTANY**

BOT4850

LECTURE SYLLABUS

Fall 2019

**Instructor:** Dr. Rani Vajravelu (Dr. RANI) Ph: 407 823 0990 Office: Bio 201D  
Email: [rani.vajravelu@ucf.edu](mailto:rani.vajravelu@ucf.edu)

Lecture: Tue&Thur: 10:30–11:50AM Place: BIO209 Credits:3

**Office hours** (Walk-in, no appointment needed): Mo, We & Th: 1:30– 3:00 PM  
*If the above hours are not convenient, you may see me with a prior appointment.*

**Course homepage:** Access BOT4850 through [Webcourses@UCF](mailto:Webcourses@UCF)  
(More course policies on homepage with (\*) are to be considered as extension of this syllabus)

**Browser recommendations:** See <http://guides.instructure.com> **Read through Canvas Student Guide**  
**Tech help:** [onlinesupport@ucf.edu](mailto:onlinesupport@ucf.edu) or call CDWS 3-0407 / [helpdesk@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:helpdesk@mail.ucf.edu), 3-5117

**E-mail:** For course-related questions, use email (Inbox) link through Webcourses- BOT 4850.  
Phone: (407) 823 – 0990 [emails & phone calls on redundant info may not receive a reply]

**PREREQUISITES:** PCB 3522 or a “C” or better in PCB 3023

**Course Description:** The medicinal properties of plants and their role in both traditional and modern medicine; history of herbal medicine, and alternative medicinal practices around the world.

**Suitable for:** Students pursuing a pre-professional degree in health-related disciplines from all colleges.  
Restricted elective for Biology majors.

**Note:** Please expect a tedious workload and a vast amount of technical information that will require organizational skills & committed study habits. Knowledge on Angiosperm plant structure is essential.

**Objectives:**

- to gain knowledge on the value and diversity of best known medicinal plants of the world.
- to understand the role of phytochemicals in prevention and treatment of health conditions.
- to get an overview of alternative medicine systems employed around the world.
- to learn about the historical and modern uses of plants in medicine.

**Required:**

1. Textbook 1: **Medicinal Plants of the World** Ben-Erik van Wyk & M. Wink  
CABI Publications, 2017 ISBN 13: 978 1 786393 25 8
2. Classroom access to [Webcourses@ucf.edu](mailto:Webcourses@ucf.edu) through a mobile device.

**Recommended:**

1. Guide to **Medicinal Herbs: the World’s Most Effective Healing Plants**. 1st ed., Washington, D.C., Johnson RL, Foster S, Weil A. National Geographic, 2010 ISBN 978 1 43515 658 6
2. Access to a variety of free digital resources through UCF Library.

**Late Registration:** August 26 - 30; **DROP / SWAP:** August 29; **Withdrawal Deadline:** Nov 01  
**University Holidays:** Sep 02, Nov 11, & 27 (student holiday), 28 - 29

**Attendance:**

Students are responsible for all material presented in class, including announcements about course procedures. Tests and quizzes often include questions on material presented in class, so performance on these indirectly reflects attendance. Attendance will be recorded randomly. Students are NOT expected to provide an excuse for their absence unless a test/exam is missed.

*As of Fall 2014, all faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the first online activity "survey" by the end of the first week of classes, or as soon as possible after adding the course, but no later than August 30. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.*

**Lecture schedule [tentative] & Test dates [fixed]:**

Selected topics from the textbook and any posted material will be covered in the form of lectures, reading/online assignments, and group work. Online assignments will be posted on course homepage and class announcements will be made accordingly.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b> <i>Please note: The chapter numbers below are used for meaningful organization of the instructor's material. They may not correspond with the chapters found in your textbook.</i>
Aug 27 & 29	Syllabus distribution; course policies explained. Ch. 1 Introduction to the Medicinal Plants
Sep 03 & 05	Ch. 2 Overview of plant parts/products used in herbal medicine Ch. 3 Risk-Benefit profiles of herbal therapies
Sep 10 & 12	Ch. 3 Risk-Benefit profiles of herbal therapies Ch. 4 Phytochemicals and their actions
Sep 17 & 19	Ch. 4 Phytochemicals and their actions contd. <i>Possible Group work and submission.</i>
Sep 24 & 26	Ch. 4 Phytochemicals and their actions contd. <b>Sep 26</b> - Test 1 on previous material
Oct 01 & 03	Ch. 5 Alternative Medicine Systems of the World
Oct 08 & 10	Ch. 5 Alternative Medicine Systems- contd. Other- Aromatherapy, Homeopathy
Oct 15 & 17	<i>Possible Group work and submission.</i> Ch. 6 Therapeutic uses of plants in human health conditions: part 1
Oct 22 & 24	Ch. 6 Therapeutic uses of plants in human health conditions: part 1 <b>Oct 24</b> - Test 2 on material covered since Test 1
Oct 29 & 31	Ch. 6 Therapeutic uses of plants in human health conditions: part 2
Nov 05 & 07	Ch. 6 Therapeutic uses of plants in human health conditions: part 2 <i>Possible Group work and submission.</i>
Nov 6 & 8	Ch. 6 Therapeutic uses of plants in human health conditions: part 2
Nov 12 & 14	Ch. 7 Plants currently used in modern medicine
Nov 19 & 21	<b>Nov 21</b> - Test 3 on material covered since Test 2
Nov 26	<i>Possible Group work and submission.</i> Last chance for students to complete any missed work.
Dec 03	Review for final exam.
Dec 10	<b>Final</b> comprehensive exam. Tuesday 10 AM – 12: 50 PM

**Please note:**

This course serves as an introduction to the medicinal properties of plants and their medical applications. Do not attempt to self-diagnose and treat yourself with medicinal plants. The course content is not designed to substitute medical advice and supervision from trained physicians.

<b>Evaluation: Total points for the course:</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>TESTS</b> 3 tests, each worth 100 points:	<b>300 points</b> [60%].
<b>FINAL</b> Comprehensive examination:	<b>150 points</b> [30%].
<b>Homework</b> (best 5 submissions will be counted out of 6)	<b>50 points</b> [10%]
<b>Bonus</b> (point value & duration for each may vary)	<b>+10 points</b> [2%]

Expect homework on most Thursdays with 24 hours window to complete. Announcement will be made in class. Bonus will be given at the discretion of the instructor in the form of discussions or in-class pop quizzes. Bring your WiFi enabled mobile device to class. Students are advised to stay prepared at all times. Total bonus points (after calculations) will be added to your final exam at the end of the semester.

**\*Makeup test:** NO MAKE UP for a missed homework or bonus and no points will be given for late submission. If a test/exam is missed with a valid reason, a makeup can be requested. Check Webcourses Makeup Request.

**Evaluation Policy for the entire course:**

All of the points earned from above categories determine your final course grade. The following scale will be used to convert numerical grade in to a letter grade. That is,

92% and above = A	82% - 84% = B	72% - 74% = C	62% - 64% = D
89% - 91% = A-	79% - 81% = B-	69% - 71% = C-	59% - 61% = D-
85% - 88 = B+	75% - 78% = C+	65% - 68% = D+	58% and below = F

**Z designation:** Academic dishonesty may result in the designation of Z in front of your grade. For more info see <http://ied.sdes.ucf.edu/integrity> Check “Honesty” on page 4 of this syllabus.

**Incomplete Grade:** ‘I’ is given only for students who have completed all of the course assessments with a minimum ‘C’ average and missed the final exam with a valid, documented excuse submitted to the instructor within 24 hours of missing the final exam.

**Test / exam policy:**

You must have a valid UCF student ID in your possession in order to enter the exam hall. When a student leaves the exam hall once the test is in progress, he/she is considered to have completed the exam and will not be allowed back in to the hall to continue the exam. Students who show up late (more than 5 minutes after the scheduled start) will be marked absent and must follow through the makeup policy. More policies will be announced in class before each test.

**Grade posting & Grade concerns:**

- Test and final exam grades will be posted on WebCourses course homepage. It will take at least a week to upload the grades. Log in to this page and click “**Grades.**” *Instructor is not responsible for network problems and log in difficulties.* If a re-grading is needed because of student’s fault (incorrect PID, smudges etc. on scantron), 2 raw points will be deducted from that test/exam.

Bring concerns regarding posted grades to the attention of the instructor within one week (24 hrs for final exam and test 3) from the initial date of grade posting. After this time, the posted grades will become final. Instructor retains the right to change the grade if an error while recording student grades. If such a change is made, student will be informed through UCF Knight’s email. If you do not have one, set up an account at <https://www.secure.net.ucf.edu/KnightsEmailSelfService>

**Scantron & Score sheets / Completed test review:**

We plan to use scantron for all of the tests, which will be provided to the entire class. Graded scantrons will not be returned to students. However, score sheet will be printed out of the scantron which will be available for review for two weeks after each test (3 days for Test 3). Please use the scheduled office hours for this purpose.

**Other important course policies:**

1. Students who are officially registered for this particular course only are allowed to attend the lectures and take the quizzes and tests. Instructor is not responsible for any problems related to registration.
2. Students must follow the University standards for personal and academic conduct as outlined in The Golden Rule. See <http://www.ucf.edu/goldenrule>
3. Walking in late and/or leaving early from the lecture hall disrupts the entire class and is NOT allowed.
4. All kinds of audio/video, cell phones must be turned off inside the classroom. If you use a WiFi device in class, use it only for BOT4850-related purposes. Anyone caught text messaging or emailing inside the classroom will have 2% deduction of his/her final course grade.
5. Recording of class lectures in audio/video form NOT allowed. Duplication and distribution of class lecture and exam questions strongly prohibited. *Third parties are selling class notes and other materials from this class without my authorization. Please be aware that such class materials may contain errors, which could affect your performance or grade. Use these materials at your own risk.*
6. Dictionaries, books, study sheets, pocket calculators or organizers, scanning pens, or other sources of information NOT allowed for use during class quizzes, tests and examinations.
7. Anyone who interrupts the classroom-learning environment by any kind of disruptive behavior (including 1 - 6 above), that interferes with the instructor's right to teach and fellow students' right to learn, will be removed from the classroom and appropriate University disciplinary action will be initiated.
8. You are advised to use the course homepage only for BOT4850 related postings. Please remember that Dr. Rani does not verify the accuracy of class notes exchanged among students.

**Copyright statement:**

The instructor may provide links to various external websites to enhance your understanding of the course content. Students are advised to use caution and good judgment in using such content that should not be copied, duplicated or downloaded. For more info visit:

[http://www.copyright.com/content/cc3/en/toolbar/education/resources/copyright\\_on\\_campus.html](http://www.copyright.com/content/cc3/en/toolbar/education/resources/copyright_on_campus.html)

**Course Accessibility Statement:**

This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations for tests/exams must be registered with UCF Student Accessibility Services, phone (407) 823-2371. SAS email request will be sufficient for all scheduled tests. However, if extra time/other facilities are required within the classroom or with online assignments, students must schedule a meeting with the professor at the beginning of the semester to help in executing such accommodations in a timely manner. Email requests from SAS/the student will not be sufficient for classroom/online/or for test make up.

**Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating:**

The Biology Department presumes that all students will be honest, and that work turned in by the student will indeed be the result of that person's work. Copying the work of others, signing in for someone else, getting someone's help in online assignments, or cheating will not be tolerated, and will result in an automatic F for both the offending student and any assisting them. In addition, appropriate University disciplinary action will be initiated along with assigning a Z-grade.

**General Policy:**

Changes will be made in the above course policies if, in my judgment, the interest of learning and fairness dictate such changes. Test/ Quiz scores are to be retained by the student until the end of the course or for any questions regarding the course grade.

**Friendly Note:**

Please feel free to visit me during office hours or make an appointment to discuss your concerns directly to me. I will do everything possible in my capacity to make this course a pleasant experience for you!

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