

University of Central Florida
Department of Biology



Ethnobotany, BOT 3802, 3 credits
Lecture syllabus, fall 2022

Course description: Historical and modern uses of important plants in various cultures.

Course homepage: <https://webcourses.ucf.edu>, access BOT3802

Class location: Classroom Building 1, room O104 (in person)

Class time: Starting Monday Aug 22nd, M/W/F 2:30-3:20 PM

Instructor: Dr. Keivan Bahmani (“Dr. Bahmani”) (keivan.bahmani@ucf.edu)

Teaching Assistant (TA): Gabriel Benson (gabriel.benson@ucf.edu)

Office: Department of Biology, room 101

Office hours: Mon and Wed 1-2 PM, and Fri 4-5 PM (walk-in, no appointment). You can get an appointment outside of office hours only if you have course conflicts with all office hours.

Contact Policy: With any question outside of class or office hours, first contact TA Gabriel Benson through his listed email. If needed, contact the instructor through Webcourses or email (expect faster responses through Webcourses). We strive to respond within two business days, but please be patient as there are 220 students.

To complete “Attendance for financial aid” (webcourse/Assignments): before midnight Aug 25

Withdrawal deadline: Oct 28

University holidays: Sep 5, Nov 11, 24, 25, & 26

Course objectives:

- Students will learn the appropriate scientific vocabulary related to culturally known plants.
- Students will understand how plants are used in different cultures around the world.
- Students will find out the historical events related to the discovery, use, and misuse of plants.
- Students will gain the real-world knowledge on plants used in human lives.

Learning outcomes:

- You can apply accurate terminology to name and describe culturally known plant parts.
- You can identify culturally useful plants by name, type, usefulness, role in various cultures.
- You can understand the edible, medicinal, psychoactive, and stimulating effects of various plants.
- You can apply the gained knowledge to everyday real-world situations.

Course requirements:

1. **Access to [webcourses@ucf.edu](https://webcourses.ucf.edu)**, and **prerequisites of the course** (BSC2010C and BSC2011C)
2. **Students are expected to be respectful to the instructor, TA, and their fellow students** and behave in an adult and professional manner.
3. **Textbook:** ETHNOBOTANY: A Modern Perspective, 3rd ed by Vajravelu. Available in eText format only. Publisher: Kendall-Hunt. 2020 ISBN 9781792424908 (buy here: <https://he.kendallhunt.com/vajravelu>). For browser recommendations check <http://guides.instructure.com>. Read through the Canvas Student Guide. For technical help: onlinesupport@ucf.edu or call CDWS 3-0407 / helpdesk@mail.ucf.edu, 3-5117. Expect to learn and remember an array of technical terms.

4. **Class attendance is not a graded portion of this course**; however, attendance will ensure you leave this course with a full grasp of Ethnobotany. You do not need to bring class absence excuses to the instructor. Students are responsible for materials covered in the 11 chapters of the textbook, whether they attend the class or not. Lectures are not recorded. Please ask any question you might have at the end of the class.
5. **Complete the academic activity entitled “Attendance for Financial Aid”** on Webcourses/Assignments by 11:59 PM Thursday Aug 25. Failure to do so will result in delay in disbursement of your financial aid.
6. **Quizzes at the end of each chapter:** there are 11 timed, closed-book quizzes associated with 11 chapters of the textbook. Each quiz contains 18-20 multiple choice questions derived only from the materials in that chapter of the textbook. Quizzes are open at the start of the semester, and will be kept open until their due dates. You can take them online in the textbook itself, at any point before the quiz due dates and any location convenient for you.
7. **A comprehensive final exam at end of the semester:** there will be a comprehensive cumulative final exam in form of multiple choice questions (derived only from the materials in the textbook). This exam will be administered on Webcourses and is a timed, closed-book exam. You can take the final exam at any time during a window of multiple days in row at the end of the semester and any location convenient for you.
8. **This is a 3000-level course, so budget enough time** to be able to read the textbook, take the quizzes before due dates, and study for the final exam. The instructor is not responsible for internet problems including but not limited to late attempts, last minute submission issues, browser problems, etc, unless the issue is a Webcourses outage affecting the entire class. Please do not wait until the due date to complete the quiz in case of technical issues.

Evaluation: maximum points obtainable are 100:

70 points from 11 quizzes: out of the 11 quizzes, your lowest score will be dropped, and each of the 10 remaining quizzes will be worth 7 points (7% each, 70% total). There will be **NO make up** for missed quizzes as you will have plenty of time to complete them in advance of each deadline, plus your lowest score will be dropped.

30 points from one cumulative final exam: This exam will be open for a window of multiple days at end of the semester. There is **NO make up** if you miss the final exam, unless the reason is university-approved (in such a case, contact Dr. Bahmani).

15 points for optional activities: **Optionally** you can make a poster (about your favorite plant or any plant related topic; worth up to 8 points) or/and a collection of dry plant materials (such as plants tissues, spices, etc.; worth up to 7 points). Details will be announced later.

Grading scale: Grades (no rounding) will be provided on Webcourses. The following scale will be used to convert total numerical grade into a letter grade:

- ≥ 95.01 = A+
- 90.01 – 95 = A
- 85.01 – 90 = B +
- 80.01 – 85 = B
- 75.01 – 80 = C+
- 70.01 – 75 = C
- 65.01 – 70 = D+
- 60.01 – 65 = D
- ≤ 60 = Fail

Lecture schedule:

We will cover the 11 chapters of the textbook in the form of lectures. This schedule is approximate and may occasionally deviate. Quiz due dates will not change.

Week and date	Chapter # - Quiz due date
Week 1: Aug 22	Syllabus - Chapter 1
Week 1: Aug 24	Chapter 1
Week 1: Aug 26	Chapter 1
Week 2: Aug 29	Chapter 2
Week 2: Aug 31	Chapter 2
Week 2: Sep 2	Chapter 2 - Chapter 1 quiz
Week 3: Sep 5	No class
Week 3: Sep 7	Chapter 3
Week 3: Sep 9	Chapter 3 - Chapter 2 quiz
Week 4: Sep 12	Chapter 4
Week 4: Sep 14	Chapter 4
Week 4: Sep 16	Chapter 4 - Chapter 3 quiz
Week 5: Sep 19	Chapter 5
Week 5: Sep 21	Chapter 5
Week 5: Sep 23	Chapter 5 - Chapter 4 quiz
Week 6: Sep 26	Chapter 6
Week 6: Sep 28	Chapter 6
Week 6: Sep 30	Chapter 6 - Chapter 5 quiz
Week 7: Oct 3	Chapter 7
Week 7: Oct 5	Chapter 7
Week 7: Oct 7	Chapter 7 - Chapter 6 quiz
Week 8: Oct 10	Chapter 8
Week 8: Oct 12	Chapter 8
Week 8: Oct 14	Chapter 8 - Chapter 7 quiz
Week 9: Oct 17	Chapter 9
Week 9: Oct 19	Chapter 9
Week 9: Oct 21	Chapter 9 - Chapter 8 quiz
Week 10: Oct 24	Chapter 10
Week 10: Oct 26	Chapter 10
Week 10: Oct 28	Chapter 10 - Chapter 9 quiz
Week 11: Oct 31	Chapter 11
Week 11: Nov 2	Chapter 11
Week 11: Nov 4	Chapter 11 - Chapter 10 quiz
Week 12: Nov 7	How to make a poster
Week 12: Nov 9	My personal research on fennel
Week 12: Nov 11	No class - Chapter 11 quiz
Week 13: Nov 14	My personal research on stevia
Week 13: Nov 16	My personal research on sunflower
Week 13: Nov 18	My personal research on pepper
Week 14: Nov 21	Review / Guest lecturer / Poster and collection?
Week 14: Nov 23	No class
Week 14: Nov 25	No class
Week 15: Nov 28	Review / Guest lecturer / Poster and collection?
Week 15: Nov 30	Review / Guest lecturer / Poster and collection?
Week 15: Dec 2	Review / Guest lecturer / Poster and collection?
Week 16: Dec 5	No class
Week 16: Wed Dec 7, 1-3:50 PM	Final exam (open in multiple days)

Z designations: Academic dishonesty, plagiarism, or cheating may result in the designation of Z (for more info see <http://ied.sdes.ucf.edu/integrity>). You don't need to cheat to succeed!

Incomplete Grades: 'I' is given only for students who have completed all the quizzes with a minimum point of '30' and missed the final exam with a valid, documented excuse submitted to the instructor within 24 hours of missing the final exam.

Grade concerns: Bring concerns regarding posted grades to the attention of the instructor within 24 hrs from the date of initial grade posting. If the grade concern can NOT be resolved within two email transactions, make an appointment to resolve it at the instructor's office. After this time, the posted grades will become final. Instructor always retains the right to change the grade if an error occurred while recording grades.

Other important policies:

1. Students who are officially registered for this course only are allowed to attend the lectures and take the quizzes and exam.
2. Students must follow the university standards for personal and academic conduct as outlined in the golden rule (<http://www.ucf.edu/goldenrule>).
3. Within the classroom, use your mobile devices only for instructor approved course-related activities. Turn off all kinds of audio/video, cell phones inside the classroom. Anyone who interrupts the classroom-learning environment will be removed from the classroom and appropriate University disciplinary action will be initiated.
4. You are advised to use the course homepage for BOT3802 related posting only.
5. Changes will be made in the above 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 after the semester for any questions regarding the course grade.
6. If the instructor falls ill during the semester, or an unforeseen event happens to him, there may be temporary changes to this course, including having a backup instructor take over the course or moving to online lectures (announcements will be made on Webcourses).
7. Students who desire to observe a religious holyday must plan accordingly to make the dues dates for the quizzes as they have plenty of time for each quiz (all quizzes are open from beginning of the semester until their due dates), and for the final exam, there will be a window of multiple days to take the exam. Please plan accordingly as there will be no make up for quizzes/final exam. A student who believes they have been unreasonably denied an educational benefit due to their religious practices may seek redress with the Office of Institutional Equity.
8. I recognize and understand the difficult times we are all in due to COVID-19. Masks are encouraged. Students who believe they may have a COVID-19 diagnosis should contact UCF Student Health Services (407-823-2509) and not come to class/campus.
9. Course Accessibility Statement: Students with disabilities who need accommodations for quizzes/exams must be registered with UCF Student Accessibility Services (SAS) <http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/>, phone (407) 823-2371, email sas@ucf.edu
10. If you have a special need related to emergency situations, please speak with the instructor.
11. Please feel free to visit me and Gabriel during office hours to discuss your concerns. If you are struggling, please do not wait until you fall behind to meet with us. We will do everything possible in our capacity to make this course a pleasant experience for everybody!

University-Level Policies (some of them might not be applicable to this course)

Use of Zoom in this Course: This course may use Zoom in case of emergency. If so, please take time to familiarize yourself with Zoom by visiting the UCF Zoom Guides at <https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/webcourses/zoom/>. You may choose to use Zoom on your mobile device (phone or tablet). **Things to Know About Zoom:** You must sign in to a Zoom session using your UCF NID and password. You can contact Webcourses@UCF Support at <https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/webcourses/> if you have any technical issues.

COVID-19 and Illness Notification: Students who believe they may have a COVID-19 diagnosis should contact UCF Student Health Services (407-823-2509) so proper contact tracing procedures can take place. Students should not come to campus if they are ill, are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive for COVID, or if anyone living in their residence has tested positive or is sick with COVID-19 symptoms. CDC guidance for COVID-19 symptoms is located here: (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>).

Course Accessibility Statement: The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need specific access in this course, such as accommodations, should connect with Student Accessibility Services (Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone (407) 823-2371). Through Student Accessibility Services, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential access and accommodations that might be reasonable.

Deployed Active Duty Military Students: If you are a deployed active duty military student and feel that you may need a special accommodation due to that unique status, please contact your instructor to discuss your circumstances.

These two policies below related to make up missed quizzes/exams are NOT applicable to our course as students have plenty of time to complete each quiz, their lowest score will be dropped, and there will be a window of multiple days to take the final exam:

Make up Assignments for Authorized University Events or Co-curricular Activities (UCF Policy 401.2): Students are frequently asked to represent the university in authorized events and activities. In some cases, this participation conflicts with the students' course assignments and requirements. It is university policy that instructors of record offer a reasonable opportunity for such students to complete missed classroom assignments, including written or oral examinations, quizzes, term papers, or other assignments. Furthermore, the make-up assignment and grading scale should be equivalent to the missed assignment and its grading scale. No penalty due to absence may be applied to these make-up assignments. The names of students participating in authorized activities such as, intercollegiate athletics, band, choir, co-curricular activities, and other academically related programs and events to represent the university will be listed on a Program Verification Form. It is the student's responsibility to present a copy of this form signed by the appropriate individual to the instructor(s) of record responsible for the class from which the student will be absent. The student must provide the Program Verification Form prior to the class in which the absence occurs. The university sponsor signs a copy of the Program Verification Form and files it with the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for verification purposes.

Make-up Assignments for Religious Observances (UCF Policy 5.020): The University of Central Florida will reasonably accommodate the religious observances, practices, and beliefs of

individuals in regard to admissions, class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments. A student who desires to observe a religious holy day of his or her religious faith must notify all of the instructors teaching the class(es) from which the student desires to be excused no later than the tenth business day of the term. The student will be held responsible for any material covered during the excused absence, but will be permitted a reasonable amount of time to complete any work missed. Where practicable, major examinations, major assignments and University ceremonies will not be scheduled on a major religious holy day. Students who are absent because of religious observances and have complied with this regulation will not be penalized. A student who believes that he/she has been unreasonably denied an educational benefit due to his/her religious belief or practices may seek redress with the Office of Institutional Equity in accordance with that office's Investigation Procedures.

Academic Integrity:

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in:
Unauthorized assistance: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.

Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.

Commercial Use of Academic Material: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.

Falsifying or misrepresenting the student's own academic work.

Plagiarism: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.

Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.

Helping another violate academic behavior standards.

Soliciting assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements.

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating

Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, *The Golden Rule* <<https://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/>>. UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and respond to academic misconduct when necessary. Penalties for violating rules, policies, and instructions within this course can range from a zero on the exercise to an "F" letter grade in the course. In addition, an Academic Misconduct report could be filed with the Office of Student Conduct, which could lead to disciplinary warning, disciplinary probation, or deferred suspension or separation from the University through suspension, dismissal, or expulsion with the addition of a "Z" designation on one's transcript.

Being found in violation of academic conduct standards could result in a student having to disclose such behavior on a graduate school application, being removed from a leadership position within a student organization, the recipient of scholarships, participation in University activities such as study abroad, internships, etc. Let's avoid all of this by demonstrating values of honesty, trust, and integrity.

In-Class Recording Statement

Students may, without prior notice, record video or audio of a class lecture for a class in which the student is enrolled for their own personal educational use, for use in a complaint against the institution, or for use as evidence in a civil or criminal proceeding. Students may not record for any other purpose without the consent of the faculty member. A class lecture is defined as a formal or methodical oral presentation as part of a university course intended to present information or teach students about a particular subject. Recording classroom activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to lab sessions, student presentations (whether individually or part of a group), class discussion (except when incidental to and incorporated within a class lecture), clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, test or examination administrations, field trips, and private conversations is prohibited. Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation and class attendance, and may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of the University's Student Code of Conduct as described in the Golden Rule. Under existing Florida law (Florida Statutes 1004.097), a recorded lecture may not be published without the consent of the faculty member, except it may be shared with university officials or state and federal government officials in connection with a complaint to or against the university, or used as evidence in a criminal or civil proceeding. Violation of this provision may subject the student to disciplinary action by the university and/or to a legal action by a person injured by the publication. To publish means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute or otherwise provide access to the recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person, or persons, including but not limited to another student in the class. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of the recording, is published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, picket signs, or any mode of print. Under this law, a faculty member may bring legal action "against a person who has published video or audio recorded in a classroom in violation of paragraph (3)(g) in a court of competent jurisdiction to obtain declaratory and injunctive relief and may be entitled to damages plus court costs and reasonable attorney fees, with the total recovery not to exceed \$200,000."

Campus Safety Statement

Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise in our class, we will all need to work together. Everyone should be aware of the surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance.

Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Please make a note of the guide's physical location and consider reviewing the online version at http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html.

Familiarize yourself with evacuation routes from each of your classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency. (Insert class-specific details if appropriate)

If there is a medical emergency during class, we may need to access a first aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those items are located in this building, see <http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/AEDlocations-UCF> (click on link from menu on left).

To stay informed about emergency situations, sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to my.ucf.edu and logging in. Click on “Student Self Service” located on the left side of the screen in the tool bar, scroll down to the blue “Personal Information” heading on your Student Center screen, click on “UCF Alert”, fill out the information, including your e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click “Apply” to save the changes, and then click “OK.”

If you have a special need related to emergency situations, please speak with me during office hours.

Resources for Success

University Writing Center: The University Writing Center (UWC) offers writing support to UCF students from first-year to graduate in every discipline. Trained peer consultants provide help at every stage of the writing process, including understanding assignments, researching, drafting, revising, incorporating sources, and learning to proofread and edit. The UWC’s purpose is not merely to fix papers or to make better writers, but to teach writers strategies to navigate complex situations for writing, both in and outside the University. Consultations are available for individuals and small groups. <https://uwc.cah.ucf.edu/>

UCF Libraries: The Research and Information Services Department exists to help students and faculty use library resources and services to find high-quality information both in the physical library collections and online. This unit provides one-on-one research consultations with a librarian for extensive, in-depth assistance with research. Sandy Avila is our science librarian, and she will participate directly in this course. <https://library.ucf.edu/about/departments/reference/>

Counseling and Psychological Services: Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) is a campus agency designated to provide psychological services to currently enrolled students free of charge. CAPS provides a variety of services from career assessment and stress management to crisis intervention. The office is located in Counseling Center 101, which is next to the UCF Health Center. <http://caps.sdes.ucf.edu/>