

**BOT 3018C**  
**University of Central Florida**  
**SPRING 2015**

**CULINARY BOTANY ACROSS THE CULTURES**  
**Biology Department**  
**Pre req: BOT 3802**

**Credits: 3**

**LECTURE SYLLABUS [LAB INTEGRATED]**

**LECTURES:** 0001 W, F: 12: 30 PM - 1: 50 PM BL 104  
**LAB:** 0011 W: 2: 00 PM – 3: 50 PM BL 104

**Instructor:** **Dr. Rani Vajravelu** ["DR. RANI"]

**Office:** **Biology 201 D**  
**Phone:** **(407) 823 -0990**

**Office hours** (Walk-in, no appointment needed): { **Monday:** 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM  
**Friday:** 10:30 –11: 30AM & 2:00–3:00 PM  
**Thursday:** 9:00 – 10:00 AM

**On-line Office hours** (thro' Webcourses): →

*If the above hours are not convenient, you may see me with a prior appointment.*

**e-mail:** use the Inbox feature within BOT3018C homepage for all of your course-related concerns. For other purposes: **Rani.Vajravelu@ucf.edu** (*a reply cannot be guaranteed with this email*)  
**Phone:** (407) 823 – 0990 [emails & phone calls on redundant info will not be replied]

**Course homepage:** <https://webcourses.ucf.edu> Access BOT3018C  
Find additional course policies with \* on homepage. Consider them as extension of this syllabus.

**Browser recommendations:** <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

**Course Description:** Cultural food traditions and the connections between plants, people and health; examines the preparation methods that enhance the nutritional values.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

This is NOT a cooking course.  
*Lecture and lab sessions may be switched or extended to the other in order to use the class time efficiently.*  
*Students are expected to attend the entire session on both days and not to miss either one or both.*

**Objectives:**

1. Find out the role of plants as applicable to ethnic cuisines.
2. Learn the vocabulary related to plants & their products used in culinary practices.
3. Explore the scientific connection between plants & nutrition.
4. Apply the knowledge to simple, healthy preparation methods.

**Required:**

1. **Textbook:** "Culinary Botany", A customized textbook, Pearson Custom Library, 2012. ISBN 1-269-04853-8
2. Classroom access to Webcourses@ucf.edu through a WiFi enabled mobile device  
Separate ring binder and plenty of papers for lecture notes.
3. Other supplies: will be mentioned in class as needed.

**Important:**

Part of the course will include ethnic, vegetarian food sampling (either store-bought or prepared at home by students or instructor). If you are allergic to certain food type, it is your responsibility to refrain from tasting them. Instructor is not responsible for keeping track of your food allergies or health issues related to food samples provided in the classroom.

**Attendance:** Regular class attendance is expected of all enrolled students. You are responsible for all materials covered and all announcements made in every class, whether you are present or not. Unexcused class absences and/or tardiness (more than 2) will result in the deduction of 2% of your final grade. If you are in University related activities, you must inform the instructor ahead of time to have your excuses approved; not right before or during class. Quizzes, tests and exams often include questions on material presented in class, so performance on these indirectly reflects attendance.

*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 academic activity marked as "Introduce yourself" on course homepage by the end of the first week of classes, or as soon as possible after adding the course, but no later than January 21. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.*

**Late Registration:** January 12 – 16; **DROP / SWAP:** January 15; **Withdrawal Deadline:** Mar 24  
**University Holidays:** Monday, Jan 19; and Mar 09 – 14

**Evaluation Policy for the entire course:** A 10-point scale will be used to convert numerical grade in to 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

NC grades are NOT given.

**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 (see **make up** below) submitted to the instructor within 24 hours of missing the final exam.

**Evaluation: Total points for the course: 400** SEE DETAILS below.

**Tests:** 2 tests (lecture & lab-based), variable, for a total of 200 points = 50%  
**Laboratory work & class participation** : 50 points = 12.5%  
**Group project and presentation** : 50 points = 12.5%

**Final exam** is comprehensive, worth 100 points (lecture and lab combined) = 25%

**Bonus points:** Expect surprise opportunities to earn extra points (quiz, online activity, participation). There is no make up for a missed bonus activity. Maximum 8 points (2%).

*Those who are not in attendance cannot make up a missed lab / quiz at other times. Be prepared at all times.*

**Lecture Syllabus [tentative] / test schedule:** Any change in the following schedule will be announced in class.

Jan. 14: Syllabus distribution, Course procedures. Chapter 1.

Jan. 16 through Feb. 13: Chapters 1, 2

**Test 1:** Feb. 18 Wednesday [100 points] (based on both lecture & lab material)

Feb. 20 through Mar. 27: Chapters 3, 4, 5 & 6

**Test 2:** Apr 01 Wednesday [100 points] (based on both lecture & lab material)

Apr 03 through Apr. 22: Appendix- Nutritive value of foods from Chapters 1- 6

**Group projects & presentations:** Apr. 03 - 17 [50 points]

Apr. 22 – 24: Last week of class. Course wrap up. Final exam review.

*Majority of the content for each test will cover the material since the last test. However, due to the nature of the course content, it is strongly advised that students keep track of major concepts & vocabulary from previous test material.*

**Final exam** [comprehensive and is required to complete this course]: **Apr 29, 1:00 -3:50 PM**

Students who show up late (more than 5 minutes after the scheduled start) for any of the above tests/ exams will be marked absent. You must have a valid UCF student ID in your possession in order to enter the exam room.

**Graded exams:** Exams will be either hand- or machine graded. Grades will be returned in class. Any question regarding the grades must be directed to the instructor on the same day the grades are returned. Tests will be available for review at Dr.Rani's office for two weeks after each test. Only one exam will be available for review at one time. You must have your graded test with you to compare the answers.

**Unclaimed tests and other graded assignments are not the responsibility of the instructor.**

**Make-up opportunity:** No make up for missed bonus activities. If a scheduled test is missed, inform by 5 PM on that day and provide a valid, documented excuse (from doctor, police, judge, official UCF event, etc.) by Friday following the test date. If the reason is approved, final exam score will be counted twice, one in place of missed test, other as final exam score. It is the student's responsibility to initiate the request and follow through the make-up exam instructions. Excuses presented orally or through email will not be counted as valid excuse unless supplemented by official, dated documents. Since the lab set-up takes several hours of prior preparation, missed labs cannot be made up.

**Group project and presentation:** Students will be given an opportunity to choose from two kinds of projects. One type of project will incorporate Service Learning aspect which is out door based. More Information will be given in class.

**Laboratory exercises:** Since there is no lab manual available for this course, handouts will be provided for lab exercises. Students are expected to keep track of the samples and supplies provided as their study material.

Labs are designed to go along with lectures. Keep your lecture notes and required course materials with you for all labs.

There may be some outdoor labs. Please be prepared on all lab days to walk outdoors. Previous announcements will be made for any out of campus field trips. If you have any health issues it is your responsibility to meet with the instructor to discuss this well ahead of time.

Missed labs will not receive any grades and cannot be repeated unless the absence is University related.

If you need help, I will be happy to help outside of class hours at a mutually convenient time.

Students are expected to clean up after every lab exercise. Instructions will be given in class, please follow them closely. Two points will be deducted every single time the cleaning instructions are not followed.

**Please note:**

1. Students who are officially registered for this particular course only are allowed to attend the lectures / labs and take the quizzes, tests and exam. 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. Recording of class lectures and lab in video or audio form not allowed. All electronic devices, including cell phones must be turned off in the classroom.
4. Walking in more than 5 minutes late or leaving before the entire class is dismissed is NOT allowed. Avoid making outside appointments in the hope of leaving early from class.
5. No dictionaries, books, pocket calculators or organizers, PDAs, scanning pens, cell phones and/or any other electronic devices allowed for use during any testing activity including quizzes. Do not exchange or share the clickers.

6. When a student leaves the exam hall once the exam 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. This policy also includes the class quizzes and tests.
7. Instructor is not responsible for network problems and logging in difficulties related to submission of assignments and projects. Delayed submissions will not be considered for full credit.
8. Last day to take care of any pending grade concern is Apr. 24. For final exam grade: 24 hrs after the grades are posted on course home page. Posted grades will become final after these dates.

**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)

**Disability Statement:**

Students with disabilities who need accommodations for tests/exams must be registered with UCF Student Disability Services, phone (407) 823-2371. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request.

In addition, if accommodations are required within the classroom or with online assignments, students must schedule a meeting with the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss the nature of accommodations. Email requests will not be sufficient for classroom/online accommodations.

**Honesty:**

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, or cheating, will not be tolerated, and will result in an automatic F for both the offending students and any assisting them. In addition, appropriate University disciplinary action will be initiated.

**If you want to succeed in this course:**

- Develop an appreciation for different cultures.
- Stay motivated; learn to work in teams.
- Attend all the classes. Bring all needed supplies for the course.
- Arrive at least 5 minutes prior to class meeting time.
- Have a positive attitude towards learning.
- Be prepared for long hours of intensive work on lab days.
- Read all lecture and lab materials from previous class meeting.
- Complete the assigned work. Do not be afraid to ask for help.

***Please Remember: Your final grade is what you earn.***

**General Policy:**

Changes will be made in the above policy if, in my judgment, the interest of learning and fairness dictate such changes.

Test score sheets are to be retained by the student until the end of the course and for any questions on final grade.

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