

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

**BOT 4850 – 001 (V)**

**LECTURE SYLLABUS**

**FALL 2020**

**Instructor:** Dr. Rani Vajravelu (“Dr. RANI”) Phone: N/A Office: Virtual  
Email: [rani.vajravelu@ucf.edu](mailto:rani.vajravelu@ucf.edu) (for general purpose only; see below for course-related use)

**Lectures:** Synchronous *via* Zoom Tues & Thurs: 10:30 AM – 11:50 AM Credits: 3  
Links to join scheduled Zoom sessions will be sent through Webcourses.  
Visit this link to understand Zoom student functionality: <https://youtu.be/plgFdhQx9g>

**Office hours:** T & R: 11:50 AM – 12:30 PM (exclusively for this course)  
*Other options like chat and one-one video conferencing available with prior appointment.*

**email:** Contact through Webcourses Inbox (expect 2 business days for a reply). Redundant info may not receive a reply. I will address most general concerns regarding course content/procedure in class or through online announcements.

**Course homepage:** Access BOT4850 through 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

**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. Prior knowledge on general plant structure is essential.

**Objectives:**

- to gain knowledge on the value and diversity of widely used 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. Access to Webcourses with a secure internet connection for all class meetings & assignments.
3. CANVAS App - free to download from UCF (enable ‘notifications’ from Webcourses).
4. A camera-enabled device for online proctoring tools. Policy is supported by the Office of Academic Conduct, UCF.

**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 24 - 28; **DROP / SWAP:** August 28; **Withdrawal Deadline:** October 30

**University Holidays:** Sep 07, Nov 11 & 25 - 28

**Attendance:** Regular attendance during 'live' lectures is expected of all students, but not mandatory.

Your attendance is determined by your 'online presence' for example, participation in online live lectures, discussions, and course-related group work.

You are responsible for all materials covered and all announcements made in every class, whether you are logged into online lectures or not. You need not bring class absence excuses unless you missed a test/exam.

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 "Pre-test" 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 August 28. 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. Any changes to the schedule will be announced in class.

Date	Topic <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 25 & 27	Syllabus distribution, course policies explained. Ch. 1 Introduction to the Medicinal Plants <span style="color: red;">Pre-test (Financial aid) due on 8/28</span>
Sep 01 & 03	Ch. 2 Overview of plant parts/products used in herbal medicine Ch. 3 Risk-Benefit profiles of herbal therapies <span style="color: blue;">Quiz 1</span>
Sep 8 & 10	Ch. 3 Risk-Benefit profiles of herbal therapies Ch. 4 Phytochemicals and their actions <span style="color: blue;">Quiz 2</span>
Sep 15 & 17	Ch. 4 Phytochemicals and their actions... contd. <span style="color: blue;">Quiz 3</span>
Sep 22 & 24	Ch. 4 Phytochemicals and their actions... end. <span style="color: red;">Sep 24 - Test 1</span> on previous material
Sep 29 & Oct 01	Ch. 5 Alternative Medicine Systems of the World
Oct 06 & 08	Ch. 5 Alternative Medicine Systems- contd. Other- Aromatherapy, Homeopathy <span style="color: blue;">Quiz 4</span>
Oct 13 & 15	Ch. 6 Therapeutic uses of plants in human health conditions: part 1 <span style="color: blue;">Quiz 5</span>
Oct 20 & 22	Ch. 6 Therapeutic uses of plants in human health conditions: part 1 Test Review
Oct 27 & 29	<span style="color: red;">Oct 27- Test 2</span> on material covered since Test 1 Ch. 6 part 2
Nov 03 & 05	Ch. 6 Therapeutic uses of plants in human health conditions: part 2
Nov 10 & 12	Ch. 6 Therapeutic uses of plants in human health conditions: part 2 <span style="color: blue;">Quiz 6</span>
Nov 17 & 19	Ch. 7 Medicinal plants in your lives: Group work presentation
Nov 24	Ch. 7 Medicinal plants in your lives: Group work presentation
Dec 01 & 03	Review for final exam. Last day to clear any grade-related concerns so far.
Dec 08	<span style="color: red;">Dec 08 Final</span> 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>
TESTS 2 tests, each worth 100 points:	<b>200 points</b> [40%]
FINAL Comprehensive examination:	<b>100 points</b> [20%]
Quizzes (best 5 submissions will be counted out of 6)	<b>100 points</b> [20%]
Group work (Guidelines will be provided)	<b>100 points</b> [20%]

Expect a Quiz on most Thursdays. Expect all kinds of graded activities monitored by various online proctoring tools.

### Makeup Policy

If you anticipate missing a scheduled test/quiz due to University/government- related reasons, reach out to me a week in advance. A makeup can be arranged at the earliest convenience.

For all other reasons for missing a test, students must provide signed documents that support their excuse. Merit of the reason is to be determined by the instructor only upon the submission of valid, signed documents. Once approved, a makeup will be arranged on or prior to the last day of class. Make up will be of a different version. There is No 'makeup' for a missed makeup. A student can have a maximum of one missed test including final exam for the entire semester.

There is NO MAKE UP for a missed quiz and no points will be given for late submission. Due to the size of the class, no extensions will be provided for any scheduled assignments.

Instructor is NOT responsible for internet problems (unless from Webcourses that affects the entire class) including but not limited to late attempt, last minute submission issues, browser problem, etc.

Any issues with quiz should be resolved during posted office hours by the following Tuesday.

### 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 into a letter grade. That is,

90% and above =A	80% - 85% = B	70% - 75% = C	60% - 65% = D
86% - 89 = B+	76% - 79% = C+	66% - 69% = D+	59% 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 / Quiz/ Exam policy:

Online proctoring tools will be used for every graded activity. Check Z-designation above.

### Grade posting:

All graded activities through WebCourses; Final course grade will be issued through Registrar's office.

### Feedback & Grade concerns:

- For all quizzes, expect individual feedback on the Webcourses within a week's time.
- 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 from each side, the student MUST make an appointment to resolve it during a scheduled one-on-one Zoom video meeting.
- Prior appointment, ID verifications and video chat required for individual test feedback. This measure is essential due to online nature of the course.
- If any grade change occurred, student will receive a notification through UCF Knight's email. If you do not have one, set up an account at <https://www.secure.net.ucf.edu/KnightsEmailSelfService>
- Test answers will not be released; however, a feedback will be given during the next Zoom class meeting only after the entire class has completed the test.

### 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:

Students with disabilities who need accommodations for quizzes/exams must be registered with UCF Student Accessibility Services, phone (407) 823-2371. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. In addition, if accommodations are required within the online classroom or with assignments, students must schedule an online meeting with the professor right after the first day of class to help in executing such accommodations in a timely manner. Email requests alone will not guarantee any Zoom classroom/online accommodations.

### 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. All kinds of graded assignments are CLOSED BOOK type. Copying the work of others, signing in for someone else, getting someone's help in online assignments, or cheating from your own or someone's notes during a graded quiz/test 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. To find out more, read <https://ied.sdes.ucf.edu/integrity/>

### Other important course policies:

1. Students who are officially registered for this course only can attend the Zoom lectures and take the quizzes and tests. Instructor is not responsible for any problems related to registration and any missed activity that results from late 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. Log in to Zoom at least five minutes prior to each synchronous lecture to test your tech accessories.
4. Avoid late log in to Zoom as it disrupts the lecture and you risk missing polls that record participation.
5. Log in to Zoom with your registered full name. Nick names/unrecognizable persons will be removed from Zoom.
6. Duplication and distribution of class lectures and quiz 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. Use these materials at your own risk.*
7. Anyone who interrupts the classroom-learning environment by any kind of repeated disruptive behavior (including #4 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 for BOT4850 related posting only.
9. Your instructor is **not** the person to resolve your tech issues.  
Reach out to the following centers for your tech solutions: [webcourses@ucf.edu](mailto:webcourses@ucf.edu) and UCF IT Support Center <https://ucf.service-now.com/ucfit>
10. Keep track of all announcements and new uploads on Webcourses course homepage.

### General Policy:

Changes will be made in the above policy if, in my judgment, the interest of learning and fairness dictate such changes. Any concern on the course proceedings or grades should be resolved by 5 pm Dec 9, 2020.

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

- Attend all the classes. Buy the required textbook.
- Log in to Zoom at least five minutes before class start time. Choose a distraction free area for class work.
- Develop a positive attitude towards learning. Be prepared for long hours of intensive work.
- Read all lecture materials from previous class meeting.
- Complete the assigned work. Actively participate in class discussions.
- *Remember that your final grade is what you earn.*

### Friendly Note:

Please feel free to pay a virtual visit to discuss your concerns to me. I will do everything possible in my capacity to make this course a pleasant experience for you!

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