

SOUTHERN MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

South Portland, Maine 04106

Title:	Woody Plants	Total Contact Hours	Catalog Number: HORT 110
Credit Hours:	2	Lecture:	16 hrs.
Instructor:	Cheryl Rich, M.S.	Lab:	40 hrs.

COURSE SYLLABUS

Lecture / Lab: Tuesdays 1:30 – 2:15; 2:30 – 5:00; HORT G01 (Basement classroom; access on Adams St.)

Instructor: Cheryl Rich, M.S.

Office: 741-5780

Email: crich@smccME.edu

Office hours: Mondays 10:00-noon
Tuesdays 10:00-noon
Thursdays 1:30 – 3:30 pm
Fridays By appointment only

My office is located in the Horticulture Building and my schedule is posted on my door. Feel free to call, email, stop in, or leave me a note (email is best). For lengthy meetings, please make an appointment.

Course Description

This course focuses on the identification, selection, uses and culture of trees, shrubs, groundcovers and vines mainly in the northern New England landscape. Native and introduced or exotic plants are discussed, with an emphasis on the identification and selection of plants appropriate to various sites encountered in the urban and rural landscape. Field trips are required.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course you will:

1. Be able to identify each of the plants studied by its scientific and common names.
2. Learn selected cultivars of species.
3. Learn the cultural requirements of the identified plants.
4. Learn techniques of pruning and planting woody plants.
5. Understand the uses of woody plants in varying landscape situations.
6. Learn to make informed decisions on the selection of appropriate woody plant materials in the landscape.
7. Learn the important insect and disease problems of woody plants and their management.
8. Research and report on one plant of interest, discussing important species characteristics and uses in natural and developed landscapes.

Topical Outline of Instruction (sequence of topics may vary)

- Plant taxonomy and binomial nomenclature
- Plant morphology and anatomy as they relate to successful plant identification
- Flower and fruit characteristics as they relate to plant identification and classification
- Using a dichotomous key to identify woody plants
- Identification of woody landscape plants
- Cultural practices as they relate to plants studied

- Pest and disease concerns as they relate to plants studied
- Appropriate use of plants studied as it relates to plant characteristics and site considerations

Course Requirements

Identification Quizzes Anticipate an identification quiz each week that covers the plants introduced the previous week. Quizzes will also contain enough additional plants from earlier lists to bring the quiz total to 25 points. Quizzes will be based on images, and / or live plant material, and students will be required to provide both botanical and common names. Quizzes may also cover other significant information such as physical attributes, cultural information, usage, family, etc. No make up quizzes will be given. (Instructor discretion applies.) Quizzes are given at the beginning of the class; therefore, it is important for students to be on time—time will not be extended, nor will questions be repeated for students who arrive late. (25 pts. ea.)

Plant Cards /Sheets

Students will be required to complete one “card” per plant covered. Each card / sheet will contain specific pieces of information relevant to that plant (see below). A sample sheet is provided at the end of this syllabus. These will be collected on the day of the final exam. (.25 pt. ea.)

- Scientific/Botanical Name
- Common Name, Family and Origin
- Leaf form and arrangement with drawing, photo or pressing of a leaf or representative identifying characteristic.
- Mature height and spread, form or shape of plant
- Other keys to identification (bark, buds, etc.)
- Hardiness/Zone
- Landscape use(s)
- Negative attributes (if applicable)
- Specific cultural requirements (e.g. sun, tolerates wet soils, etc.)
- Foliage description (including fall color)
- Fruit/flower description(sketch or photo)
- Specific pest / disease concerns(if any)

You may wish to include additional characteristics if it helps you to recognize the plant and understand its traits, but it is not required. **All datasheets must be completed neatly and legibly.** Points will be deducted for unreadable or poorly organized sheets. You are required to keep up with your datasheets, as they are a study tool.

In the event of a storm related cancellation on due date, students’ final grade in this course will be calculated based on all other grades, excluding the final exam. notebooks must be submitted the next day that classes are in session in order to be calculated into students’ grades; otherwise, grades will be calculated without notebooks included (not a zero; rather like they didn’t exist).

Plant Cards /Sheets Review

The datasheets may be reviewed periodically throughout the semester by instructor. These reviews *may not be announced in advanced.* **You will be graded on your progress.** (25 pts.)

Brochure

Each student will be required to produce a professional quality trifold brochure on Maine’s alien invasive and potentially invasive woody plants. This brochure will provide a definition of invasiveness, an overview of the problems posed by invasive plants, and a list of Maine’s invasive woody plants along with simple keys to identification. The brochure will also include a list of two suitable alternative species for each invasive species, at least one of which must be native. More information will be presented in the coming weeks. (50 pts.)

Exams

Mid-term exam is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 18** and will cover all identifications and lecture material to date. (100 pts.).

Final exam is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 13** and will cover all identifications and lecture material from the first week through the end of the course. (100 pts.)

In the event of a storm related cancellation on this date, students' final grade in this course will be calculated based on all other grades, excluding the final exam. Notebooks must be submitted the next day that classes are in session in order to be calculated into students' grades; otherwise, grades will be calculated without notebooks included (not a zero; rather like they didn't exist).

Communication

All course and college communications should be done using your SMCC email account. If I need to contact you I will use your SMCC email address only. If you choose to do so, you can have your SMCC email forwarded to your personal email account.

Attendance

Given the amount of material covered each week, regular attendance is essential to success in this course. You will be quizzed and tested on material covered in lectures, labs, and field trips; consequently, poor attendance will be reflected in the grade you receive for the semester.

Grading

Identification quizzes ? @ 25 pts. ea ???

Plant card check 25 pts.

Plant Cards .25 points per *complete* card ???

Brochure 50 pts.

Other assignments: 2 @ 25 pts. ea.

Mid-term exam 100 pts.

Final exam 100 pts.

Total ???

Your final grade will be determined by dividing the total number of points earned by the total number of points possible. This number will be your grade percentage. The letter grade translations are as follows:

93-100 = A 83-86 = B 72-76 = C < 60 = F

90-92 = A- 80-82 = B- 70-71 = C

87-89 = B+ 77-79 = C+ 60-69 = D

**WE ARE OUTSIDE FOR EXTENDED PERIODS OF TIME, REGARDLESS OF THE WEATHER,
AND INVOLVES A GREAT DEAL OF WALKING AND STANDING.
PLEASE DRESS APPROPRIATELY**

Required Text

Michael Dirr. *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*, 6th Ed. Champaign, IL: Stipes Publishing Co, 2009.

Stidd, Benton M. and Robert D. Henry. *Key to Common Woody Landscape Plants in the Midwest*. Champaign, IL: Stipes Publishing Co, 1995.

Harrison, Lorraine. *Latin for Gardeners*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012.

Additional readings and reference materials will be provided to you.

Suggested App: Dirr's Tree and Shrub Finder (iPhone, iPod touch, iPad; iOS 3.1.3 or later)

Required Materials

Hand lens
Pencil for sketching
Clipboard
Waterproof paper (recommended)
Raingear, as needed

Other

Classes will meet in **HORT G01** unless otherwise noted in the previous class. There may be field trips away from SMCC, but within the greater Portland area. For these field trips, we will likely meet as a group at a designated time, at the alternate location. It is your responsibility to arrive at the site **on time**. Directions will be provided in advance. **All classes will meet as scheduled rain or shine. Always wear or bring appropriate clothing.**

You are also encouraged to establish at least one **“homework buddy”**—exchange contact information, and take care of each other in the event of absences. The photocopier in our building can be used to scan and email documents such as lecture notes and handouts.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN THIS COURSE:

- Review your data sheets often and walk to observe the plants we have used for ID. Stay current and review them often (between classes, during commercials, etc.). Many students attach pictures to their cards.
- Save old plant catalogs. They're good sources for pictures, and some offer good information about plants' growth, use, cultural requirements, etc. (especially useful for newer introductions).
- Some of the plants we'll be covering may *not* be found in your required text. In order to be prepared for quizzes and exams, and to provide the necessary information on your data sheets, you'll need to utilize additional sources—just be sure that your sources are reliable and current.
- Anticipate 4-6 hours of study / homework for this class on a weekly basis
- Form a study group. Review plants together
- At risk of being redundant, complete your data sheets on a weekly basis!!

End-of-Course Evaluation

Students complete evaluations for each course attended at SMCC. Evaluations are submitted online and can be accessed through the student portal. Students can access the course evaluations beginning one week before the end of classes. The deadline for submission of evaluations occurs Monday at 5 PM following the last day of the class. You will receive an email to your student email account when course evaluations are available.

ADA Syllabus Statement

Southern Maine Community College is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and employer. For more information, please call 207-741-5798. If you have a disabling condition and wish to request accommodations in order to have reasonable access to the programs and services offered by SMCC, you must register with the Disability Services Coordinator, Sandra Lynham, who can be reached at 741-5923. Further information about services for students with disabilities and the accommodation process is available upon request at this number. Course policies about online testing are modified to suit each individual's accommodations.

SMCC Pay-for-Print Policy

Per Page Costs

Each semester students receive a \$20 printing credit. The balance resets at the end of the semester and any remaining credits are removed. The cost varies depending upon page size and whether printing is done in black and white or color.

- a. There is a \$0.10 per page fee for standard 8.5" by 11" black and white documents.
- b. The reverse sides of duplex (double-sided) documents are free.
- c. There is a \$.50 per page fee for standard 8.5" by 11" color documents.
- d. There is a \$.20 per page fee for 8.5" by 14" (legal) or 11" by 17" (tabloid) black and white documents.

e. There is a \$1.00 per page fee for 8.5" by 14" (legal) or 11" by 17" (tabloid) color documents. Duplex charges (printing on both sides of a page) work in the following fashion: One page is \$0.10, two pages are \$0.10, three pages are \$0.20, and four pages are \$0.20, etc. The flipsides are free, but another sheet of paper is \$0.10. Please be aware that a document with any color at all (when printed to a color printer) will by default be printed in color. You are responsible for setting the print job to print black and white if you do not need color. For directions, please go to the IT Help tab in My SMCC.

How does it work?

The College's pay-for-print system monitors printing on all printers (including those in general access labs, library printers, the Academic Achievement Center, Noisy Lounge and technology labs). Students can check the number of pages they have printed by using the Printing Balance tool available on SMCC computers (located in the lower right corner of the screen, near the clock). Departments with work study students who need to print documents for the department should contact the Help Desk at 741-5696 to have a special account set up.

Refunds

Print jobs are eligible for a refund in the event of mechanical or electronic error on the part of the printer, print server, or software used to submit the job. Jobs are not eligible for a refund in cases where the job was not set up correctly, was submitted multiple times, or the student is not satisfied with the result. To request a refund, please bring the offending print to the IT Department in the basement of the Ross Technology Center. Refunds will be granted in the form of a credit to the student's account.

Why is SMCC charging for printing?

The pay-for-print system is an effort to control escalating printing costs. Charging for printing helps offset the increasing cost of supplies and encourages students to conserve resources. To find ways to reduce your printing charges, please go to the IT Help tab on My SMCC. If you have questions about the pay-for-printing policy or your printing charges, please contact the Help Desk at 741-5696 or send an email to helpdesk@smccme.edu. Be sure to log OUT of the system when you've finished your printing, to prevent unauthorized access to your account.

Add-Drop Policy

Students who drop a course during the one-week "add/drop" period in the fall and spring semesters and the first three days of summer sessions receive a 100% refund of the tuition and associated fees for that course. Please note any course that meets for less than the traditional semester length, i.e., 15 weeks, has a pro-rated add/drop period. There is no refund for non-attendance.

Withdrawal Policy

A student may withdraw from a course only during the semester in which s/he is registered for that course. The withdrawal period is the second through twelfth week of the fall and spring semesters and the second through ninth week of twelve-week summer courses. This period is pro-rated for shorter-length courses. To withdraw from a course, a student must complete and submit the appropriate course withdrawal form, available at the Enrollment Service Center (no phone calls, please). The designation "W" will appear on the transcript after a student has officially withdrawn. A course withdrawal is an uncompleted course and may adversely affect financial aid eligibility. Failure to attend or ceasing to attend class does not constitute withdrawal from the course. There is no refund associated with a withdrawal.

Plagiarism Statement

Adherence to ethical academic standards is obligatory. Cheating is a serious offense, whether it consists of taking credit for work done by another person or doing work for which another person will receive credit. Taking and using the ideas or writings of another person without clearly and fully crediting the source is plagiarism and violates the academic code as well as the Student Code of Conduct. If it is suspected that a student in any course in which s/he is enrolled has knowingly committed such a violation, the faculty member should refer the matter to the College's Disciplinary Officer and appropriate action will be taken under the Student Code of Conduct. Sanctions may include suspension from the course and a failing grade in the course. Students have the right to appeal these actions to the Disciplinary Committee under the terms outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

Cell phones silenced during class, please!

BOTANICAL NAME _____ **COMMON NAME(S)** _____

FAMILY _____ **ORIGIN** _____

HT _____ **SPREAD** _____ **RATE OF GROWTH** _____ **ZONE** _____

BARK COLOR _____ **PLANT TEXTURE** _____

FLOWERS _____ **FRUIT** _____

FOLIAGE _____ **FALL COLOR** _____

SITE _____ **SOIL** _____

CARE _____

USES _____

DISEASES _____

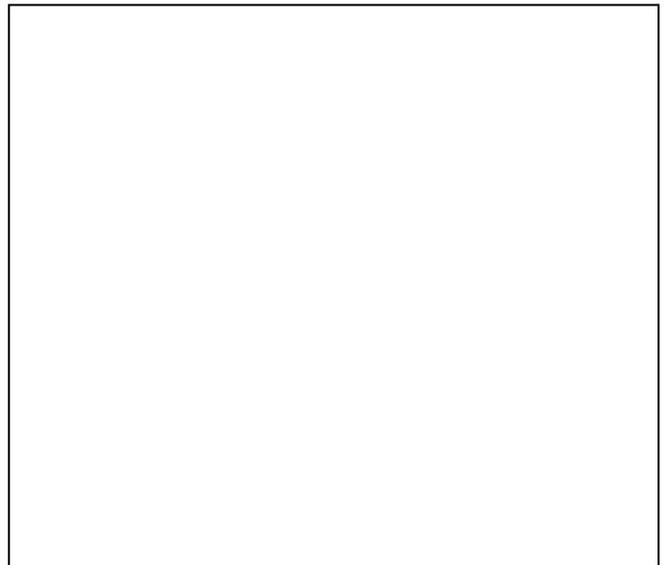
PESTS _____

NEGATIVE ATTRIBUTES _____

**VARIETIES /
CULTIVARS** _____

LEAF

FORM OF TREE / SHRUB



OTHER NOTES

**ETYMOLOGY:
REFERENCE(S)**