

**SOUTHERN MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**South Portland, Maine 04106**

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<b>Title: Herbaceous Plant Materials</b>	<b>Total Contact Hours</b>	<b>Catalog Number: HORT 200</b>
<b>Credit Hours: 2</b>	<b>Lecture: 16 hrs.</b>	
<b>Instructor: Cheryl Rich, M.S.</b>	<b>Lab: 32 hrs.</b>	

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**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**Summer 2016**

Lecture:	Wednesdays 1:00-2:15
Lab:	Wednesdays 2:30-5:00
Instructor:	Cheryl Rich, M.S.
Office:	741-5780
Email:	<a href="mailto:crich@smccME.edu">crich@smccME.edu</a>
Office hours:	I am typically available for quick meetings any time I'm in my office. For longer meetings, please schedule an appointment. Summer office hours: Wednesdays 10:00-12:00; 5:00-5:30.

**Course Description**

This course focuses on the identification, selection, uses, and culture of herbaceous landscape plants in the northern New England landscape. Emphasis is placed on the identification, cultural practices, and ornamental value of selected plants, with applications in the perennial and annual garden.

**Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Identify plant materials covered in this course using both botanical and common names, based on various plant characteristics such as flower type, foliage, habit, etc.
2. Identify and discuss cultural requirements of plants studied.
3. Identify and discuss both positive and negative attributes of plants studied.
4. Discuss and identify various planting techniques as they relate to the plant materials covered in this course.
5. Generate lists of plants appropriate for various site and garden requirements (shade garden, native plants, white garden, fall interest, etc.).
6. Discuss and utilize various propagation techniques for herbaceous plant materials.
7. Discuss the importance of soil preparation as it relates to the success of herbaceous beds, borders, and containers.
8. Identify and discuss common pest and disease problems as they relate to the plant materials covered.
9. Discuss and identify various maintenance techniques as they relate to herbaceous gardens and the plant materials covered in this course.

**Topical Outline of Instruction** (sequence of topics may vary)

- Review of plant taxonomy and binomial nomenclature
- Review of plant morphology and anatomy as they relate to successful plant identification
- Plant lifecycles: annuals, biennials, perennials
- Planting and cultural practices
- Techniques for herbaceous plant propagation
- Geophytes: selection, planting, and storage
- Garden maintenance throughout the year
- A new plant list will be assigned each week.

**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, and identify the lifecycle of the plant in question. 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 will contain specific pieces of information relevant to that plant. This will be addressed in greater detail on a separate handout. All cards will be collected on the day of the final exam. You may submit either a hard copy or a digital copy (CD or flash drive) (.25 pt. ea.)

### Exams

*Mid-term exam* is scheduled for **Wednesday, July 6**, and will cover all identifications and lecture material to date. (100 pts.) *Final exam* is scheduled for **Wednesday, Aug. 17** and will cover all identifications and lecture material from the first week through the end of the course. (100 pts.)

### 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 Cards	.25 points per <i>complete</i> card	???
Mid-term exam		100
Final exam		<u>100</u>
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	

### Texts

Required: Armitage, Allan. *Herbaceous Perennial Plants. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition.* Champaign, IL: Stipes Publishing L.L.C., 2008.  
Harrison, Lorraine. *Latin for Gardeners.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012.  
Armitage, Allan. *Manual of Annuals, Biennials, and Half Hardy Perennials.* Portland, OR: Timber Press, Inc., 2001. (IF AVAILABLE)

(I used to list a bunch of titles here, but the list became too long. Lots of good stuff out there!)

### **TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN THIS COURSE:**

- Use your plant cards as **flash cards**. 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 plant cards, 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
- At risk of being redundant, complete your cards on a weekly basis!!

**We're outside as often as possible. Please dress appropriately, and be prepared to do some occasional gardening.**

**SMCC ADA Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action 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 (TTD 207-741-5667) or at [slynham@smccme.edu](mailto:slynham@smccme.edu). Further information about services for students with disabilities and the accommodation process is available upon request at this number.

**SMCC 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 proven that a student in any course in which s/he is enrolled has knowingly committed such a violation, appropriate action will be taken under the Student Code of Conduct that may result in 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. For more information, consult the Student Handbook.

**SMCC Course Evaluation Process**

At the end of the semester, please complete the online and anonymous Course Evaluation by going to "My Maine Guide" on the SMCC website.

**Cell phones silenced during class, please!**

# HORT 200

## HERBACEOUS PLANT MATERIALS

### Plant Card Guidelines

One of the requirements of this course involves the creation of a *plant card* for each of the required plants covered throughout the semester. The **purpose** for this requirement is threefold: it requires the student to interact with various resources while gathering the necessary information about plant material, it provides the student with readily available study and review material, and it provides the student with personalized reference material for future use.

The *plant cards* may be submitted on **4 x 6 index cards** (see below), on **full sheets in a binder**, or on a **flash drive**. Students choosing to prepare full sheets should create a *typed template* on which the required information can be added (either typed or hand written).

Adding **pictures** to plant cards is certainly encouraged, but not required.

The **required elements** for plant cards appears on the sample index card below. The **format** shown is just a suggested format. Students are encouraged to develop a format that best meets his / her needs, and follow that format consistently. Students choosing to use index cards might want to consider a format that will allow the cards to function as flash cards, perhaps by placing a picture only on one side and information on the other, or by placing the common name on one side and the botanical name on the other.

Some students choose to expand the usefulness of their cards by doing such things as color-coding them by season of bloom, bloom color, site requirements, etc. Students are encouraged to make these cards useful study and reference tools, but are also cautioned to keep them simple enough that they can be completed on a weekly basis.

All plant cards are **due at the final exam**. *Do not wait until the end of the semester to complete your cards!* Stay current, and use them to prepare for quizzes and exams.

**BOTANICAL NAME**

**COMMON NAME(S)**

**FAMILY**

**ORIGIN**

**ANNUAL / BIENNIAL / PERENNIAL / GEOPHYTE**

**ZONE (if applicable)**

**KEYS TO IDENTIFICATION**

(This should probably include size, habit, flower and foliage description, etc.)

**SEASON**

**CULTURE**

**USE**

**ETYMOLOGY**

**OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Might include such topics as pest or disease problems, poisonous, edible, maintenance tips or concerns, interesting cultivars, drought tolerance, groovy plant combinations, etc.