

SOUTHERN MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
South Portland, Maine 04106

Title: Herbaceous Plant Materials

Credit Hours: 2

Instructor: Cheryl Rich, M.S.

Total Contact Hours

Lecture: 16 hrs.

Lab: 32 hrs.

Catalog Number: HORT 200

COURSE SYLLABUS

Lecture: Thursdays 9:00-9:50

Lab: Thursdays 10:00 to 11:50

Instructor: Cheryl Rich, M.S.

Office: 741-5780

Email: crich@smccME.edu

Office hours: 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 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 **Thursday, October 20**, and will cover all identifications and lecture material to date. (100 pts.) *Final exam* is scheduled for **Thursday, December 15**, 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).

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. 3rd Edition.* Champaign, IL: Stipes Publishing L.L.C., 2008.
Harrison, Lorraine. *Latin for Gardeners.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012.

Suggested: Armitage, Allan. *Manual of Annuals, Biennials, and Half Hardy Perennials.* Portland, OR: Timber Press, Inc., 2001. (IF AVAILABLE)
Still, Steven. *Manual of Herbaceous Ornamental Plants.*

Champaign, IL: Stipes Publishing L.L.C., 1994.

(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 gardening.

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!

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.