PLANT IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION – BIOLOGY 317

SPRING 2015

Instructor: Richard Olmstead
Office: 423 Hitchcock
Classrooms: Lecture – 132 Hitchcock Hall; Labs – 244/246 Hitchcock
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Office hours: By appointment
Course Web site: http://courses.washington.edu/bot113/spring/

Required materials:
Lab tools, including: millimeter ruler, fine-tipped forceps (the finer the better), and one dissecting needle. A hand lens will be useful, but not required.

Recommended (wait to purchase if you want after course has started):
Harris, J. and Harris, M. Plant Identification Terminology. Spring Lake Publishing

Field Trips:
Washington Park Arboretum - April 16, 17, or 18. Required.
Cascade transect over Stevens Pass to Leavenworth; see a range of Washington plant communities - All day Saturday May 9 (Optional, but highly recommended)

Course Objectives:
Understand the principles and philosophy of plant classification
Learn about plant diversity with an emphasis on Washington state
Learn to recognize important plant families by sight
Gain the skill to identify unknown plants by use of keys and published Floras
Gain a greater appreciation of plant biodiversity in the world around you

Grading: Lecture exams will not be cumulative in their coverage, except for the necessary background that you accumulate as the course proceeds. Lab exams will be cumulative. Most importantly this means that you will be expected to increase your knowledge of family recognition as the course proceeds.

Breakdown of credit for BIOL 317:
Lecture: 3 exams (including final, 100 points each) 300 points
Lecture mini-quizes 15 points
Lab: quizzes (30, 35, 35); 2-part final (70/65) 235 points
Total 550 points

Watch for extra credit opportunities...