

PLB 451 – FLORA OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
Summer Semester

Instructor: Mr. Christopher Benda, M.S.
Email: botanizer@gmail.com
Phone: 217-417-4145
Lectures: Fridays from 9:00am to 10:00am
Field Trips: Fridays from 10:00am to 5:00pm
Class Dates: 1st Friday after semester starts and the next 7 Fridays
Lecture Room: PLB 430, LS II bldg.
Office Hours: By appointment only
Textbooks: Mohlenbrock, Vascular Flora of Illinois, 2014*
Other Materials: 10x Hand lens
**All textbooks are recommended but not required*

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course, you will learn about the southern Illinois natural divisions and natural community classification with an emphasis on the identification, distribution, and ecology of the natural and introduced floristic components. This is a field-based course wherein the students travel to local natural areas for plant identification. The class will meet for 7 consecutive Saturdays from 9am to 5pm, with the last class on Friday for 9am to 5pm and travel to specific field sites throughout southern Illinois. Limited time will be spent in the laboratory. Prerequisite: PLB 304 or consent of instructor. Lab fee required.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Southern Illinois is rich in its diversity of both plants and animals. The Flora of Southern Illinois is a course meant to provide students with a general understanding of the common vegetation of the area.

FIELD TRIPS:

You need to be physically fit to take this course. We will routinely travel to remote sites without trails and facilities. We will spend hours in the field in adverse conditions. You need to come to class prepared to spend all day in the field. Bring plenty of water. Always wear long pants with socks and closed-toed shoes. The instructor reserves the right to deny any students that show up unprepared. You might also want to bring sunscreen and bug spray.
No extra people are allowed on the field trips. No pets are allowed on the field trips.

EXAMS AND ATTENDANCE:

Since so much material is presented each class period, missing a class can be difficult to make up. Please report to room 430 in the Life Sciences II bldg promptly at 9:00am each class day.
No make-up exams will be offered, but the lowest exam score will be dropped.

GRADING:

This course adheres to all rules and policies indicated in the SIUC Undergraduate Catalog, student handbook, and all other pertinent materials.

Each session (except the first and the last) will have a 100 point exam. The exam will consist of material presented in lecture, as well as plant identification in the field. There will be a comprehensive plant identification final exam on the last day of class covering 100 plants and worth 300 points. **The final exam is scheduled for the last Friday of the semester and you must take the exam to pass the course.** Extra credit questions will be offered on each exam.

6 regular exams	(100 pts each)	600 points	810 – 900 points = A
1 final exam	(300 pts)	300 points	720 – 809 points = B
1 field notebook	(100 pts)	100 points	630 – 719 points = C
1 dropped exam –	100 points	<u>-100 points</u>	540 – 629 points = D
Course Total Points =900 points			539 points or less = F

FIELD SCHEDULE:

- Class 1 – Fern Rocks Nature Preserve - Giant City State Park
- Class 2 – Camp Ondessonk
- Class 3 – Heron Pond Nature Preserve, Cache River SNA
- Class 4 – Piney Creek Ravine Nature Preserve
- Class 5 – Little Grand Canyon and Rothrock Prairie
- Class 6 – Simpson Barrens and Bell Smith Springs
- Class 7 – Cave Creek Glade Nature Preserve and Big Cypress Access
- Class 8 – **FINAL EXAM:** Round Bluff Nature Preserve, Ferne Clyffe State Park

Field schedule is subject to change

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT’s website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Safety’s website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down) and in Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to response to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building of sheltering within the facility.

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