

Common Course Outline
HORT 211
Plant Classification and Identification
2 credits

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

HORT 211 - 2 credits - Plant Classification and Identification explores the techniques for identifying plants in the field using simple instruments such as the hand lens and dissecting scope; emphasis will be placed on vascular plants, but other types will be discussed and studied in the classroom, laboratory, and field.

2 credits; 2 lecture hours per week.

Prerequisite: (RDNG 051 or LVR 1), HORT 110 or consent of instructor

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. describe the units (taxa) used in plant classification (taxonomy): Division, Class, Order, Family, Genus and Species;
2. distinguish cryptogamic plants from phanerogamic plants;
3. distinguish gymnosperms from angiosperms;
4. distinguish monocotyledons from dicotyledons;
5. describe the floral envelope and other salient characteristics of the following common monocot families: Gamineae (Poaceae), Cyperaceae, Liliaceae, Orchidaceae, and Amaryllidaceae;
6. describe the floral envelope and other salient characteristics of the following common dicot families: Rannunculaceae, Cruciferae (Brassicaceae), Leguminosae (Fabaceae), Labiatae (Lamiaceae), Umbelliferae (Apiaceae), Rosaceae, Scrophulariaceae, Caryophyllaceae, Solanaceae, Rubiaceae, Boraginaceae, Compositae (Asteraceae);
7. understand the construction of keys for plant identification;
8. use keys and floras (plant manuals) to identify plants at the family, genus and species levels in the laboratory and the field;
9. describe various habitats and their representative plant species;
10. describe various geographical zones and their representative plant species; and
11. collect, preserve and mount plant specimens.

Major Topics

- I. Principles of plant classification
- II. Recognize plants in the most widely represented families

- III. How to collect and preserve plant specimens of various types
- IV. How to identify plants at the genus and species levels

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member, but will include the following:

- 1. 2 Written Tests
- 2. Lab Practicum
- 3. Plant Collection
- 4. Attendance and Participation
- 5. 2 Saturday Field Trips

Other Course Information

This course is a Horticulture Program elective course

Date Revised: 04/08/2011