

**NRES 285/499; CRN 53418; SECTION: SLF
SPRING LOCAL FLORA
SPRING 2025**

Meeting Time: Saturday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm B (second eight weeks)

Meeting Place: Turner W13

Credit: 2 hours

Instructors:

Dr. Suneeti Jog and Dr. Jason Bried

2027 (Jog) and 2007 (Bried) Evers Lab, Research Park

518-878-3589 (Jog cell)

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Office hours by appointment

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to the natural divisions and vegetation communities of Illinois, botanical terminology, morphology, taxonomy, and field identification of common vascular plants of Illinois. Use of taxonomic keys and field characteristics will be emphasized for the identification of winter twigs and early spring ephemeral plants. There will be some introductory lectures on each topic, followed by field trips during each class period. Field trips to a variety of habitats will enable students to observe and identify plants in various ecosystems and communities.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course students will:

1. gain knowledge about the various natural divisions and plant communities of Illinois
2. learn basic terminology used to describe vascular plants
3. recognize common vascular plant species of various habitats of central Illinois
4. learn the basic principles and rules of plant nomenclature
5. learn herbarium practices and use of dichotomous keys
6. learn to identify woody plants using twig characteristics
7. Learn how to use popular plant ID apps

Learning Outcome Assessment Methods:

Exams and Grading: Evaluation of your academic performance will be based on several factors.

Grades will be determined upon TOTAL points accumulated during the semester. A 90% and above=A, 80-89.9%=B, 70-79.9%=C, 60-69.9%=D, <60%=F scale is used to determine final course grades.

Project (identifications)	300 points
Quizzes and Assignments	100 points
Attendance and participation	100 points
TOTAL	500 points

Textbook: Fruit and Twig Key to trees and shrubs (William M. Harlow), ISBN-10: 0486205118

Other materials (lecture, labs, and keys) will be provided in class or online on Canvas. Students are required to purchase a 10 X hand lens (Hastings triplet \$59 on Amazon or any similar hand lens available at Illini Union Bookstore) and bring to each class period.

Student Responsibilities:

1. **Attendance:** Students should come to class on time and attendance is expected for lectures, labs, and field trips. Students are expected to attend all classes unless an absence is due to a documented sickness. There will be no make-ups for the field trips.
2. Students should come prepared with a notebook to take notes in the field. Taking pictures of plants with a smartphone in the field is recommended.
3. Voucher specimens of species considered in the field will be available for students to study from in S 509 (Monday-Friday 8am to 5pm). Students are expected to study these regularly for quizzes.
4. **Field trips:** students should wear close-toed shoes, long pants, and outdoor appropriate clothing. Please bring food and water for the duration of the class period
5. There will be a final project due on the last day of class (no exceptions). This will be a group project. Students are required to download three different apps on their smartphones. Details will be provided in class.

Group project (2-4 students)

1. Take *at least 100* photos per student (200 for a group of 2 and 300 for a group of 3) of various plant parts. Try to get as many different species as possible and from as many different counties as possible.
2. Create a Box folder with these photos (Label them with your initials and a serial number. For example, photos taken by me will be named SKJ001- SKJ100). Share the box folder with me and your partner(s). Your folder should have a separate subfolder for photos from each county.
3. Be sure to take photos on as many different days as possible. Take photos of flowers, leaves, buds, woody winter twigs, woody winter buds, basal rosettes, fruits, bark. You should have at least **25** different species per person (50 per group of two). At least **12** different plant families should be represented.
4. Students in **NRES 499** should have at least **150** photos per person represented by at least **30** species and at least **15** plant families. In addition, NRES 499 students will be given photos taken at other times during the growing season and from other IL counties.
5. Curate the data according to the Excel spreadsheet that will be shared with you in class.
6. Download **iNaturalist**, **LeafSnap**, and **PlantNet** on your smartphones. Run each photo through each one of these apps and fill in the options that become available.
7. The final column "Final ID" in the spreadsheet should be the final identification made by you and your partner. Use a variety of keys to verify your final ID.
8. Complete the final spreadsheet by the last day of class (5pm on May 3).

Academic Integrity

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign *Student Code* should also be considered as a part of this syllabus. Students should pay particular attention to Article 1, Part 4: Academic Integrity. Read the Code at the following URL: <http://studentcode.illinois.edu/>. Academic dishonesty may result in a failing grade. Every student is expected to review and abide by the Academic Integrity Policy: <http://studentcode.illinois.edu/>. Ignorance is not an excuse for any academic dishonesty. It is your responsibility to read this policy to avoid any misunderstanding. Do not hesitate to ask the instructor if you are ever in doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, cheating, or any other breach of academic integrity.

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the course instructor as soon as possible. To insure that disability-related concerns are properly addressed from the beginning, students with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this class should contact Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) and see the instructor as soon as possible. If you need accommodations for any sort of disability, please speak to me after class, or make an appointment to see me, or see me during my office hours. DRES provides students with academic accommodations, access, and support services. To contact DRES you may visit 1207 S. Oak St., Champaign, call 333-4603 (V/TDD), or e-mail a message to disability@uiuc.edu.
<http://www.disability.illinois.edu/>.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Any student who has suppressed their directory information pursuant to *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA) should self-identify to the instructor to ensure protection of the privacy of their attendance in this course. See <http://registrar.illinois.edu/ferpa> for more information on FERPA.

Emergency Response Recommendations

Emergency response recommendations can be found at the following website:
<http://police.illinois.edu/emergency/>. I encourage you to review this website and the campus building floor plans website within the first 10 days of class. <http://police.illinois.edu/emergency/floorplans/>.

Sexual Misconduct Policy and Reporting

The University of Illinois is committed to combating sexual misconduct. Faculty and staff members are required to report any instances of sexual misconduct to the University's Title IX and Disability Office. In turn, an individual with the Title IX and Disability Office will provide information about rights and options, including accommodations, support services, the campus disciplinary process, and law enforcement options.

A list of the designated University employees who, as counselors, confidential advisors, and medical professionals, do not have this reporting responsibility and can maintain confidentiality, can be found here: wecare.illinois.edu/resources/students/#confidential.

Other information about resources and reporting is available here: wecare.illinois.edu.

COURSE SCHEDULE (field trip schedule may change subject to weather, and will be announced in class accordingly)

March 29 Lecture: Winter twig terminology
 Lab: Winter twig identification
 Form project groups for final project
 FIELD TRIP: Campus

April 5 Lecture: Natural Divisions of IL, Flowers and Inflorescences, QUIZ 1
 Lab: Flowers and inflorescences, Use of taxonomic keys
 FIELD TRIP: Carle Park and Campus

April 8 **Extra credit – Forbes 1005 3-4pm INHS Seminar** Advancing Floristic Knowledge and Conservation for Northeastern North America: The New Manual Project by Dr. Rob Naczi, New York Botanical Garden <https://calendars.illinois.edu/detail/844?eventId=33514398>

April 12 QUIZ 2, Use of keys
FIELD TRIP: Forest Glen Preserve

April 19 Quiz 3
FIELD TRIP: Allerton Park

April 26 QUIZ 4
FIELD TRIP: Homer Lake

May 3 QUIZ 5, confirm identifications with keys
FIELD TRIP: Campus