Delta State University

BIO 312, Dendrology

CRN: 46706

Fall, 2012

**Instructor: Dr. Eric A. Blackwell**

**Office: Caylor Hall 236**

**Office Hours: As posted**

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**Lecture times and location: T. & Th. 9:25 – 10:15 am, Caylor 227**

**Lab times and location: Th., 2:00 – 4:40 pm, Caylor 227**

**Textbook: A field guide such as Peterson’s Field Guide to Eastern Trees or the National Audubon Society Trees of Eastern North America.**

**Prerequisites: BIO 101.**

**Students with disabilities:** If you have a disability that will impair your ability to successfully complete this course, you must contact Dr. Richard Houston at the Reilly Health Center (846-4690). Upon receipt of documentation from Dr. Houston, I will make every effort to accommodate you.

**Course Description:** Dendrology is a one semester course that examines trees, shrubs, and woody vines. The course is designed to introduce you to the classification, nomenclature, identification, and habitats of these organisms. This course will attempt to go beyond just the forest trees found in the Delta and will include common cultivated, ornamental, and exotic species that may be encountered.

**Course Objectives:** The overall objective of this course is to increase your knowledge and understanding of dendrology. Supporting objectives include:

1) Improving study and critical thinking skills.

2) Finding and applying relevant research.

1. Formulate questions.
2. Plan experiments.
3. Make systematic observations.
4. Organize and interpret data.
5. Draw conclusions.
6. Communicate your findings:

i. Written report.

ii. Oral presentation.

3) Identification of common trees, shrubs, and woody vines.

4) Developing an understanding of the factors that influence location and uses of trees, shrubs, and woody vines.

**Class Attendance:** The university policy on attendance is that students must attend at least 75% of the scheduled classes (p. 49, undergraduate bulletin). **Attendance at lectures and laboratories is expected.** **You are also expected to be on-time!** Material will be covered in class that is not in the textbook or lab manual; therefore, your grade can be adversely affected if you do not attend class or lab. Persons missing class or lab due to university sanctioned functions must provide a memorandum, signed by the appropriate official, **prior to the EVENT; otherwise you cannot make up any missed exams or labs**. You are responsible for any material that you miss – I will not be prompting you to get caught up.

**Cell phones/pagers:** Cell phones and pagers are not permitted in either lecture or laboratory. **Please turn these devices off prior to entering the classroom or laboratory.** Activation of these devices during an examination will result in an “F” on that exam.

**Assignments and Testing**:

 **Laboratories:** **Attendance at laboratories is mandatory.** Laboratories will consist of field trips to obtain specimens and conducting a research project. Your project will be conducted to evaluate an area of Dahomey Wildlife Refuge. The project will consist of assessing the tree species in an area of the Refuge. The project will be conducted over the last three Thursdays in October. The assignment will consist of a written report and an oral presentation; each worth 100 points. A detailed field notebook is required and will be turned in at the completion of the project. The notebook will count for 100 points.

 **Specimen Collection:** A collection of 50 specimens will be obtained and properly catalogued. This collection is worth 300 points.

 **Research paper:** A research paper on a tree native to the Delta will be required. The research paper is worth 100 points.

**Grading:** The overall grade for the course will be based on a total of 900 points. The following table shows the breakdown of how the points are distributed:

 Research Presentation 100

 Research Report 100

 Field Note Book 100

 Tree Report 100

 Identification Practicums 200

 Specimen Collection 300

To determine your grade at any point, add the number of accumulated points, divide by the number of possible points, then multiply by 100.

**Final Grade will be based on the following percentages:**

 **A = 100-90 (≥** **810 pts)**

**B = 80-89 (720-809 pts)**

**C = 70-79 (630-719 pts)**

**D = 60-69 (540-629 pts)**

**F = below 60 (< 540 pts)**