

Minnesota State University Moorhead

BIOL 326: Minnesota Plant Identification

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 4

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 3

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites:

- BIOL 115 - Organismal Biology

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: None

Identification of plants in Minnesota, including trees, shrubs, forbs, grasses, sedges, and ferns. Sight identification, keying skills, and proper nomenclature will be emphasized. Will include lecture and lab with much independent study in lab.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 09/21/2011 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Classification Overview
2. Basics of MN Ecology, MN land area structures
3. Terminology commonly used by keys to identify plants
4. Use of the "Field Guide to the native Plant Communities of Minnesota" series
5. Plant pressing and preservation skills
6. Instruction on completing field data forms provided by the MN DNR
7. Invasive plant species; identification, harmful effects and control

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. To learn proper nomenclature for plants, especially family and scientific names.
2. To learn which physical characteristics are associated with particular plant families and species.
3. To learn to identify (by family and species) plants by sight based on observation of physical characteristics
4. To learn to use a variety of dichotomous keys to identify plants.
5. To learn how to identify "Native Plant Communities" in Minnesota Forests and Prairies.
6. To learn how to use the "field Guide to the Native Plant Communities of Minnesota" series of books published by the MN DNR.
7. To learn practical skills in plant pressing and preservation.
8. To learn orienteering skills used to locate plant study sites in Minnesota.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

None

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted