

Prof. Dr. Chris Starbuck (starbuckc@missouri.edu)

MW 1:00 - 2:50, Room 2-7 Ag. Building

### Course Objectives

1. Learn to identify ornamental deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines and groundcovers used in modern landscapes from leaf, twig and bud and growth habit characteristics. You will be expected to know these plants by both common and scientific name.
2. Develop a working knowledge of landscape-related characteristics of individual landscape plants such as ultimate size, natural shape, aesthetic ornamental contributions, and best landscape uses.
3. Gain knowledge of tree and shrub culture including site selection, soil, water and light preferences and common insect and disease pests of plants studied during the semester.

**Text: Manual of Woody Landscape Plants** Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses. By Michael A. Dirr. Published by Stipes Publishing Co., 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2009.

**Website:** <http://www.plantsci.missouri.edu/PS2210/> Images of all plants studied during the semester are posted with maps to serve as a study aid for weekly identification quizzes.

**Course Logistics:** All classes will meet in room 2-7. There will be a brief discussion of the plants to be covered that day. However most of the class time will be used for a walking tour on campus to observe the form, important identification characteristics, ornamental value and problems of each plant. We will also take field trips to local gardens such as Shelter Insurance Gardens to observe plants not on campus. We will start with deciduous material and concentrate on evergreens later in the semester.

Before each session, a study sheet will be handed out to provide a list of the plants for the day as well as study questions that indicate items of interest for each plant to be seen. Students should fill in answers as appropriate. Not all information may be discussed in class, but answers to most questions can be found in the text. Answering the questions thoroughly will help in preparation for general knowledge tests.

**Tests: Quizzes-** Identification quizzes will be given weekly on Wednesdays (first one will be on August 29). These will consist of plants studied during the previous week (or since the last quiz but not those given on the Monday before the Wednesday of the quiz). Twelve plants will be presented for ID in each quiz. (Total 60 points). Two plants from any previous list on which you were tested will be included. In these tests, only botanic name and common name of the plant will be required; no cultural information. Correct spelling of botanic names is required for full credit (2pts for genus, 2pts for species and variety, and 1 for common name for a total of 5 points per plant). There will be 12 ID quizzes. The lowest 2 quiz scores will be dropped.

**Hour exams** - Two hour exams will be given during the semester. These will not include identification, but will ask for information important for using these plants in a landscape setting. Such items as culture, appearance, soil and climate adaptability, pest problems, or other material based on lectures or described in the text. You should read the section for each plant we see in class in the text by Dirr. You should become aware of some of the most common cultivars of these plants. Each hour exam is worth 100 points.

Dates of exams:                   September 23

  October 30

Final Exam                        December 15, 1:00 to 3:00 PM

The final will be in two parts. The written part will consist primarily of material from the last third of the course and will be essentially a third hour exam. A few discussion questions based on information provided throughout the course will also be included. The written final will be worth 100 points. The final will also include a comprehensive ID test with 20 plants, worth another 100 points.

Point summary

13 quizzes, (drop the lowest 3) = 10@ 60 pts ea.       = 600 points

2 midterms @ 100 points each                               = 200

Written final   = 100

Comprehensive ID final                                       = 100

Total   1000 points

**ADA-** If you need accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please inform me immediately. Please see me privately after class, or at my office.

Office location: 1-83 Ag Bldg., Office hours: MW 9-11 AM

To request academic accommodations (for example, a note taker or extended time on exams), students must also register with the Office of Disability Services (<http://disabilityservices.missouri.edu>), S5 Memorial Union, 882-4696. It is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting academic accommodations, and for accommodations planning in cooperation with students and instructors, as needed and consistent with course requirements. For other MU resources for students with disabilities, click on "Disability Resources" on the MU homepage.

**Academic honesty** is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences that range from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, or collaboration, consult the course instructor.