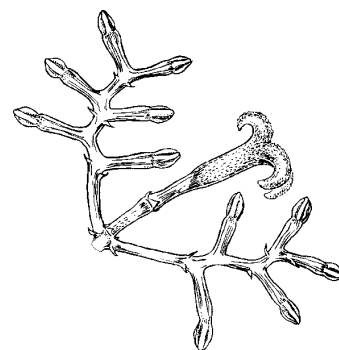


# BIOL 448—Systematic Botany (4 credits)

Alexey Shipunov

Fall 2011



## SYLLABUS

**Class Dates** : August 24 to December 9, 2011

### Course Description :

Systematic Botany will cover a diversity of North Dakota plants. We will learn the most important plant families of the state, determine most common plant genera and species, with the emphasis on plants of ecological, economical and cultural importance. While we still have living plants outdoor, the labs will be field trips, with a main goal of herbarium collection. As winter approaches, we will move to the indoor plant determination, databasing, and phylogenetic methods.

**Instructor** : Dr. Alexey Shipunov

**Office** : Moore 229

**Office Hours** : Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 11 a.m. to 12 a.m.

**Phone** : 858-3116

**E-mail** : alexey.shipunov@minotstateu.edu

**Lectures** : Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 2:00 p.m. to 2:50 p.m., Moore 210

**Textbook** : **None**. However, we will use manuals for plant determination and botany reference books.

**Web site** : [http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol\\_448/](http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol_448/)

While lecture slides will be made available on the Web site, they will NOT contain all information given on lectures.

**Laboratories** : Thursdays 1:00 p.m. to 3:50 p.m. (sometimes longer), Moore 213 (and/or in the field).

### Grading :

Four exams are given during the semester. Only three best exams contribute to the final grade. Missed exams count zero points. There are **no make-up** exams. Exams will always include plant identification.

There are five legitimate reasons for absence from exams and labs: (1) emergency situations, (2) attested medical conditions, (3) military duty, (4) participation in MSU sports events, and (5) dependent sick leave. Absence from exams or laboratories needs to be announced to the instructor in advance.

Receiving zero points for more than one laboratory results in a failed course. Grading of laboratories is based on reports, collection performance, and/or drawings. Herbarium collections, written reports and/or drawings are prepared and finished during laboratory sessions and passed to the instructor right after the particular laboratory session.

I strongly recommend attending lectures regularly. Lecture contents will not exactly follow the reference books and additional information will be supplied. One of three lecture hours per week will be devoted to the guided plant determination; the other hour may be moved to the field trip.

A total of  $\approx$  480 points (the actual total could be different) can be earned. Points will be distributed as follows (values may vary):

**Three best exams** :  $\approx$  240 points.

**Laboratories** : 240 points (20 points per lab)

**Letter Grades** : A  $\geq$  90%, B  $\geq$  80%, C  $\geq$  70% D  $\geq$  60%, F < 60% of a total. A minimum of one letter grade will be deducted from the grade for academic dishonesty / plagiarism.

**Tentative Course Schedule** :

Week 1	Aug 28, 29, 30	Intro; Lab 1
Week 2	Sep 4, 5, 6	Overview of plant morphology, determination of families; Lab 2
Week 3	Sep 9, 11, 12	Determination of families; Lab 3
"		<b>1st exam: September 13</b>
Week 4	Sep 16, 18, 19, 20	Compositae; Lab 4
Week 5	Sep 23, 25, 26, 27	Compositae; Lab 5
Week 6	Sep 30, Oct 2, 3, 4	Gramineae; Lab 6
Week 7	Oct 7, 10	Gramineae; Lab 7
"		<b>2nd exam: October 11</b>
Week 8	Oct 14, 16, 17, 18	Cyperaceae; Lab 8
Week 9	Oct 21, 23, 24, 25	Leguminosae; Lab 9
Week 10	Oct 28, 30, 31, Nov 1	Cruciferae; Lab 10
Week 11	Nov 4, 6	Rosaceae; no lab
"		<b>3rd exam: November 8</b>
Week 12	Nov 13, 15	Amaranthaceae; no lab
Week 13	Nov 18, 20, 21, 22	Ranunculaceae; Lab 11
Week 14	Nov 25, 27	Polygonaceae; no lab
Week 15	Dec 2, 4, 5, 6	Plantaginaceae and Labiatae; Lab 12
Week 16	Dec 9, 11, 13	Smaller families; no lab
		<b>4th Exam: Thursday December 19, 2:00–3:50 am, Moore 210</b>

*Please note that the schedule is a subject to change. Only exam dates are fixed.*