



**Michigan  
Technological  
University**

## **Course Syllabus**

### **FW3116 – Ethnobotany**

**School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science**

**Fall 2019**

### ***Instructor Information***

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Instructor: Blair Orr, Professor  
Office Location: Room 169 Forestry  
Telephone: Office – (906)487-2291  
E-mail: [bdorr@mtu.edu](mailto:bdorr@mtu.edu)  
Office Hours: 10 to 11 a.m. MWF, by appointment or when I am in my office. Knock to be sure. Stop by. I am happy ☺ , even ecstatic, to talk with you.

### ***Course Identification***

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Course Number: FW3116, 3 credits, HASS restricted list  
Course Name: Ethnobotany  
Course Location: Room 104B, Chem and sometimes Library 243  
Class Times: MWF, 12:05-12:55 p.m.  
Prerequisites: Sophomore standing & UN1015 & UN1025

### ***Course Description/Overview***

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The development and variety of plant use across cultures, the transition to commercialization of plants, how current uses are tied to traditional uses, and methods of ethnobotanical research.

### ***Course Resources and Grading***

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**Course Website(s):** [www.orrforest.net/ethnobotany](http://www.orrforest.net/ethnobotany) password: camphor3116

**Course email list:** [fw3116-fa19-l@mtu.edu](mailto:fw3116-fa19-l@mtu.edu).

### **Required Course Text**

- No formal text
- Various short articles assigned throughout the semester.

## Course Fees

None.

## Course Supplies

Our enthusiasm.

## Course Learning Objectives

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The **broad purpose** of this course is

1. to develop an understanding and appreciation of traditional uses of plants in different cultural and climatic environments through comparison.
2. to understand and analyze the methods used in ethnobotanical research.
3. to analyze how people currently use plants and the local and global forces that alter how people use plants

The **learning goals** are those established by the university for University Learning Goal 3. A copy of the rubric is attached to the syllabus and the rubric can be found at:

<http://www.mtu.edu/assessment/program/university-learning-goals/goal-3-rubric.pdf>

There will be more detailed learning goals for the specific topics described in the syllabus.

## Grading Scheme

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### Grading System

940 – 1000	A
890 – 939	AB
800 – 889	B
700 – 799	C
600 – 699	D
<600	F
Violation of university or course policies	F
Failure to complete course assignments	I

I reserve the right to move any grade by up to 50 points.

## **Grading Policy**

Grades will be based on the following:

Exam 1	200 points
Exam 2 (not cumulative)	200 points
Powerpoint topic and paragraph	50 points
Powerpoint version 1	50 points
Teamwork	150 points
Final Powerpoint	200 points
Small assignments	150 points

## **Late Assignments**

Most assignments are group assignments so late is not an option, plan ahead. The small assignments can be turned in late with prior approval.

## ***Course Policies***

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**Exams:** Exams are open book / open note.

### **Electronics:**

To be determined by the class. (Notes: (1) use of electronics generally reduces grades by a half grade. The Impact of Computer Usage on Academic Performance: Evidence from a Randomized Trial at the United States Military Academy, Susan Payne Carter, Kyle Greenberg, and Michael Walker SEII Discussion Paper #2016.02, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Economics (2) France has banned cell phones in schools for students in 9th grade and younger.)

### **Professional Behavior.**

Professional behavior and attitude are expected in class.

**Class Conduct:**

Students will respect their peers.

Non-prescription drugs other than caffeine and chocolate should not be used in class. This includes tobacco use.

**Discrimination:**

All students are expected to act in adherence with Michigan Tech's nondiscrimination policy, and to demonstrate a general respect for their diverse community of peers:

<http://www.admin.mtu.edu/urel/studenthandbook/policies.html>

**University Policies:**

All university policies apply to this class.

***Collaboration and Plagiarism Rules***

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Exams are to be done on your own. You can work together on class assignments and use the Multiliteracy Center for help on the powerpoint. Do not plagiarize. Cite work properly. When in doubt, ask me.

***Course Fire Evacuation Policy***

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- The signal to evacuate is the building fire alarm.
- Use the nearest safe exit route to exit the building. Leave the class room and go either right or left to exit signs. Do not use elevators.
- Close all doors on the way out to prevent the spread of smoke and fire.
- After exiting, immediately proceed to a safe location at least 100 feet from the building.
- In the event of a fire evacuation, the class meeting place for this course is the tail end of the Husky Statue.
- Do not re-enter the building until the all-clear is given by Public Safety or the fire department.
- If you will need help evacuating you must notify the instructor (in private if desired) so adequate plans can be developed for your evacuation.

### ***Selected University Policies – Other policies also apply to this class***

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Michigan Tech has standard policies on academic misconduct and complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For more information about reasonable accommodation for or equal access to education or services at Michigan Tech, please call the Dean of Students Office, at (906) 487- 2212 or go to <http://www.mtu.edu/provost/faculty-resources/syllabus-policies/>

Student work products (exams, essays, projects, etc.) may be used for purposes of university, program, or course assessment. All work used for assessment purposes will not include any individual student identification

### ***Library 243 Days***

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Sept 13, Friday. Library 243 – Explore topics. Rotate groups. Assignment: Come to class with a few topics.

Sept 27, Friday. Library 243. – Groups and topics. Spend time with in-depth topics. Assignment: email or meet with your group to narrow down to a topic or topics

Oct 11. Friday. Library 243. – Paragraph due in class, include an online bibliography. Determine who will do what for next meeting (sub-topics)

Oct 25, Friday. Library 243. – Class time to work on ppt

Nov 8, Friday. Library 243 – Class time to work on ppt

Nov 20, Wednesday. Library 243. Peer review

Dec 2, Monday. Library 243. Develop final ppt

### ***Potential Topics***

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These are suggestions and you are welcome and encouraged to use other topics.

1. Nutmeg, *Myristica fragrans*, 2. Traditional Greek medicine, 3. Quinine, genus = *Cinchona*, 4. George Washington Carver, 5. Castor Bean (*Ricinus communis*), 6. Home gardens in SE Asia, 7. Madagascar (or rosy) Periwinkle (*Catharanthus roseus*), alkaloid = vincristine,

childhood leukemia = acute lymphoblastic leukemia, 8. Quality control in over-the-counter herbal medications, 9. Vanilla, 10. Breadfruit, 11. Traditional medicine in India.

## ***Course Schedule***

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This schedule is subject to change throughout the semester. (<- **Important**)

### Week 1.

Sept 2, Monday. Labor Day no class.

Sept 4, Wednesday. Introduction

Sept 6, Friday. K-day, no class.

### Week 2.

Sept 9, Monday. Agriculture & early plant use.

Sept 11, Wednesday. Agriculture & early plant use.

Sept 13, Friday. Library 243

### Week 3.

Sept 16, Monday. Agriculture & early plant use.

Sept 18, Wednesday. Agriculture & early plant use.

Sept 20, Friday. Agriculture & early plant use.

### Week 4.

Sept 23, Monday. Paper.

Sept 25, Wednesday. Swidden Fallow Agriculture (Career Fair)

Sept 27, Friday. Library 243

### Week 5.

Sept 30, Monday. Rubber in the early 20th century. Fordlandia (Brazil) and SE Asia.

Oct 2, Wednesday. Chico Mendes and rubber in the Amazon. Also, Career Fair is today.

Oct 4, Friday. Traditional Chinese Medicine ([Rachael DeLuca](#))

#### Week 6.

Oct 7, Monday. Paper reading

Oct 9, Wednesday. Women and the Chipko movement in India

Oct 11. Friday. Library 243

#### Week 7.

Oct 14, Monday. Exam 1.

Oct 16, Wednesday. Native American ethnobotany ([Karena Schmidt](#))

Oct 18, Friday. Native American ethnobotany ([Karena Schmidt](#))

#### Week 8.

Oct 21, Monday. "Weeds" as useful plants.

Oct 23, Wednesday. "Weeds" as useful plants.

Oct 25, Friday. Library 243.

#### Week 9.

Oct 28, Monday. The Shakers and Plants.

Oct 30, Wednesday. The Shakers and Plants.

Nov 1, Friday. Psychoactive plants.

#### Week 10.

Nov 4, Monday. Psychoactive plants

Nov 6, Wednesday. Plants in Transition. (The Green Revolution and Rice).

Nov 8, Friday. Library 243

Week 11.

Nov 11, Monday. Paper.

Nov 13, Wednesday Globally traded crops: chocolate.

Nov 15, Friday. Globally traded crops: coffee.

Week 12.

Nov 18, Monday. Modern agriculture.

Nov 20, Wednesday. Library 243.

Nov 22, Friday. Modern agriculture.

[Thanksgiving Break]

Week 13.

Dec 2, Monday. Library 243.

Dec 4, Wednesday. Review. Final copy of your powerpoint is due.

Dec 6, Friday. Exam 2.

Week 14.

Dec 9, Monday. Oral Presentations.

Dec 11, Wednesday. Oral Presentations.

Dec 13, Friday. Oral Presentations.