



University of
Pittsburgh
Bradford

College in the High School

Plants and People: Introduction to Ethnobotany
BIOL 0108
3 credits

Description: The value of plants to society is introduced along with a discussion of the plants as part of the natural world. The course will examine the uses of plants by many cultures, past and present, for food, timber, fuel, clothing, religious activities, and medicine, among other uses. A basic introduction to the anatomy and ecology of plants will also be covered.

Prerequisite: None

Textbook: The recommended text for the course is *Plants and Society*, 7th Edition by Levetin, E. and McMahon, K. 2012. McGrawHill.

Other textbooks will be considered by the faculty liaison on case-by-case basis.

Other required reading: *The Trees in my Forest*, by Heinrich, B. 1997. HarperCollins Publishers.

The following topics should be covered in this course:

1. Plants in our lives
2. Plant cell and body
3. Plant life cycle: flowers, seeds and fruits
4. Shaman's Apprentice
5. Botany of desire
6. Photosynthesis
7. Genetics
8. Plant systematics and evolution
9. Diversity of plant life
10. Plant ecology
11. Human nutrition
12. Origins of agriculture
13. Grasses, legumes, starchy staples
14. Feeding a hungry world
15. Stimulating beverages
16. Herbs and spices
17. Materials: cloth, wood and paper

Course objectives:

- Appreciate and understand the role of plants in our lives
- Learn the basic parts and functions of the plant cell, body and physiology
- Understand the plant life cycle, including types of flowers, fruits and seeds
- Learn the basic of the field of genetics and the importance to plants
- Learn main concepts of plant systematics, evolution, diversity and ecology
- Explore the importance of plants to human health as food, beverages, spices and flavoring, materials, medicine and religion, agriculture

Grading: The final grade will be determined using a variety of assessment methods including assignments, quizzes, essays and exams.

Pitt Grading System:

All courses required to satisfy associate and baccalaureate degree requirements-including all courses required for a major, a minor, or general education-must be taken for letter grades, with the exception of those courses designated as graded S and NC only. Pitt-Bradford uses 13 earned letter grades. They are listed below with their equivalent quality point values.

A+	4.00
A	4.00 superior achievement
A-	3.75
B+	3.25
B	3.00 meritorious achievement
B-	2.75
C+	2.25
C	2.00 adequate achievement
C-	1.75
D+	1.25
D	1.00 minimal achievement
F	0.00 failure

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: Members of a university community, both faculty and students, bear a serious responsibility to uphold personal and professional integrity and to maintain complete honesty in all academic work. Violations of the code of academic integrity are not tolerated. Students who cheat or plagiarize or who otherwise take improper advantage of the work of others face harsh penalties, including permanent dismissal. The academic integrity guidelines set forth student and faculty obligations and the means of enforcing regulations and addressing grievances.

Grades: Grade criteria in the high school course may be different from the University standards. A CHS student could receive two course grades, one for high school and one for the University transcript. In most cases, the grades are the same. Grading standards should be explained at the beginning of the course.

Transfer Credits: Grades earned in CHS courses appear on an official University of Pittsburgh transcript and the course credits may be eligible for transfer to other colleges and universities. Students should contact potential colleges and universities in advance to be sure their CHS credits will be accepted. If students will attend any University of Pittsburgh campus, grade earned in the course will count toward the student grade point average at the University. At the University of Pittsburgh, the CHS course supersedes any equivalent AP credit.

Drops and Withdrawals: Students should monitor their progress in a course. A CHS teacher can contact the program administrators to request a drop or withdrawal. Dropping or withdrawing from the CHS course has no effect on enrollment in the high school credits.