



Indigenous Ethnobotany
Department of Biology
Fall Term

Instructor Information

Instructor: Keri Pidgen-Welyki
Office Location: BB1011F or/and Greenhouse
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Office Hours: Greenhouse 12:30-2:00 daily, BB1011F most mornings

Technician: Paige Perrons; prperron@lakeheadu.ca

Teaching Assistant (TA) Information: Nick Bel, Colin Warwick

Course Identification

Course Number: BIOL 3012
Course Name: Aboriginal Ethnobotany
Course Location: BB 1054 (Lecture)
Class Times: Monday and Wednesday 7:30-8:30 pm
Prerequisites: [Biology 1130](#), [Chemistry 1110](#), [Chemistry 1130](#),
[Chemistry 2211](#)

Course Description/Overview - An examination of the relationship of aboriginal people to the plant kingdom. The course will cover how plants are viewed by indigenous people and their usage of plants for nourishment, ceremonial, medicinal and utilitarian purposes. Emphasis will be on First Nations practices with plants in North America with a particular focus on Northwestern Ontario.

Course Resources

- Readings will be assigned

Course Schedule/ lecture Outline*

| Date(week of) | Tentative Topic | Readings |
|---------------|--|-----------------------|
| Sept 7 | Traditional Smudging and Discussion with Anishnaabek Elder | |
| Sept 10 | 1. Introduction to Ethnobotany; 2. Ethnobotany at large | To be assigned TBA |
| Sept 19 | 1. Guest lecturer 2. Ethnobotany in a global context | TBA |
| Sept 26 | 1. Approaches to botany 2. Plant taxonomy | TBA |
| October 3 | 1. Plant uses 2. Term test 1 | TBA |
| October 10 | Thanksgiving/reading week | |
| October 17 | 1. Plants as food: Gathering and Farming 2. Domestication of Corn | TBA |
| October 24 | 1. Food Gathering 2. Nutrition of Wild Foods | TBA |
| October 31 | 1. Functional Foods (food as medicine) 2. Holistic approach to medicine | TBA |
| Nov 7 | 1. Term Test 2 2. Medicinal plants and preparation | TBA |
| Nov 14 | 1. Ethnobotanical prospecting 2. Altering consciousness | TBA |
| Nov 21 | 1. Utilitarian Uses 2. Utilitarian Uses | TBA |
| Nov 28 | 1. Term Test 3 | |

*subject to change at the discretion of the instructor

Assignments and Evaluations

| Item | Date(s) | Value |
|----------------------|---------|-------|
| Term Test 1 | Oct 3 | 15% |
| Term Test 2 | Nov 7 | 15% |
| Term Test 3 | Nov 28 | 15% |
| Presentation | Nov 25 | 5% |
| Labs | | 50% |
| Antioxidant report | Oct 7 | 10% |
| Three sisters report | Dec 6 | 20% |
| Taxonomy quiz | Oct 28 | 4% |
| Taxonomy lab exam | Nov 11 | 15% |
| Participation | | 1% |
| Total | | 100% |

Late Assignments

Term tests must be written on the designated date, in class, unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor or a doctor's note is provided. Late assignments will lose 10% of the designated mark, per day. Presentations must be completed on the assigned day unless prior arrangements have been made or a doctor's note is provided.

Assignments

All assignments will be distributed during your scheduled lab time. Written instructions will be provided during the lab time as well as on the D2L (my courselink) site.

Course Policies

- Students are expected to adhere to the Lakehead University code of student behavior and disciplinary procedures (The code): [Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures](#)

Regulations

"It is the responsibility of each student registered at Lakehead University to be familiar with, and comply with all the terms, requirements, regulations, policies and conditions in the Lakehead University Academic Calendar. This includes, but is not limited to, Academic Program Requirements, Academic Schedule of Dates, University and Faculty/School Policies and Regulations and the Fees and Refund Policies and Schedules."

Collaboration/Plagiarism

While cooperative learning is encouraged, academic misconduct (including plagiarism) is strictly forbidden. All tests and assignments are to be completed individually unless explicitly stated otherwise. The penalty for plagiarism is a null grade on the assignment and will be reported to the department.

Plagiarism is defined in [University Regulation IX](#) with additional examples in Article I, Section 1 of The Code. Sanctions associated with Academic Misconduct are defined in Article II of The Code and Enforcement Procedures are outlined in Article III of The Code.

Students wishing to learn more about Academic Misconduct are encouraged to read the [University and relevant Faculty Regulations](#) and The Code (noted above) and access other resources on the [Teaching Commons](#) website.

University Policies – all University Policies can be found [here](#). Pay particular attention to those found under the Category of “Regulations” and “Student-Related”. If you have a question, please let me know by email or in-class. If you have a question, it is likely that at least a few others in the class are wondering the same thing.

Supports for Students – there are many resources available to support our students. These include but are not limited to:

- [Health and Wellness](#)
- [Student Success Centre](#)
- [Student Accessibility Centre](#)
- [Library](#)
- [Academic Support Zone](#) (Writing and Math Tutoring Centre)

Lakehead University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities and/or medical conditions to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and register as early as possible. For more information, please contact Student Accessibility Services <http://studentaccessibility.lakeheadu.ca> (SC0003, 343-8047 or sas@lakeheadu.ca)

Additional Information

Course Fees

- none

Course Supplies

- none