



Indigenous Ethnobotany
Department of Biology
Fall Term

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Qianshi Lin
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Office Hours: CB4015 10:30 to 11:30 Monday and Wednesday. *Otherwise by appointment*

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Teaching Assistant (TA) Information:

Course Identification

Course Number: BIOL 3012
Course Name: Indigenous Ethnobotany
Course Location: RB 1044 (Lecture)
CB 3013 (Lab)
Class Times: Lecture: Tuesdays Thursdays 10:30 to 11:30am
Lab: Wednesday 11:30 am or 2:30 pm
Prerequisites: [Biology 1130](#), [Chemistry 1110](#), [Chemistry 1130](#),
[Chemistry 2211](#)

Course Description/Overview - An examination of the relationship of indigenous people and 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

- 2015. Siisip Geniusz, M. Plants have so much to give us, all we have to do is ask. Anishnaabe botanical teachings. University of Minnesota Press. ISBN 978-0-8166-9676-5
 - <https://www.upress.umn.edu/book-division/books/plants-have-so-much-to-give-us-all-we-have-to-do>

- Cost: \$33.95 from bookstore. No restriction on different edition.

Course Schedule/ Lecture Outline*

Date(week of)	Tentative Topic	Readings
Sept 1	Sep 2: Course introduction Sep 4: Course introduction	
Sept 8	Sep 9: Introduction to Ethnobotany Sep 11: Introduction to Ethnobotany	
Sept 15	Sep 16: Ethnobotany at large Sep 18: Ethnobotany at large	Introduction and chapter 1
Sept 22	Sep 23: Plant 'uses' Sep 25: Ethnobotany in a global context	TBA
Sept 29	Sep 30: No Class: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Oct 2: Approaches to botany	TBA
October 6	Oct 7: Approaches to botany Oct 9: taxonomy	Kenny 2000; Davidson-Hunt 2001 (on d2L)
October 13	Thanksgiving/reading week	
October 20	Oct 21: taxonomy Oct 23: taxonomy	
October 27	Midterm	
Nov 3	Nov 4: Food Gathering Plants as food: Gathering and Farming Nov 6: Domestication of Corn and other crops	TBA
Nov 10	Nov 11: Nutrition of Wild Foods Nov 13: Functional Foods (food as medicine) Holistic approach to medicine	TBA
Nov 17	Nov 18: Medicinal plants and preparation Altering consciousness Nov 20: Ethnobotanical prospecting	TBA

Nov 24	Nov 25: Utilitarian Uses Nov 27: Utilitarian	TBA
December 3	Final exam	

***subject to change at the discretion of the instructor**

Lab Schedule

Date (week of)	Tentative Topic
Sept 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction, Plant Walk and antioxidant lab plant collection
Sept 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicinal Plant Collection/Land based reflection #1
Sept 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicinal Plant Collection/Land based reflection #2
Sept 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antioxidants Lab (participation 2%) • Antioxidant Report due Wed. Oct 11 (10%)
Oct 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oji-cree plant taxonomy
Oct 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oji-cree plant taxonomy
Oct 16	READING WEEK
Oct 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oji-cree plant taxonomy
Oct 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oji-cree plant tax. poster due/Land based reflection #3
Nov 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mounting of medicinal plant collection
Nov 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student presentation work period/medicinal plant collection due
Nov 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Presentations (10%)
Nov 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Artist

Assignments and Evaluations

Item	Date(s)	Value
Mid term	October 28	20%
Final exam	December 3	20%
Presentation	Nov. 20	10%
Labs		50%
Antioxidant report	Oct 11	10%
Oji-cree Plant tax. poster	Oct 30	15%
Medicinal Plant collection	Nov 13	10%
Land based reflection #1	Sept 13	3%
Land based reflection #2	Sept 20	3%
Land based reflection #3	Nov 1	3%
Participation	Dec 1	1%
Total		100%

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 (myCourselink) site.

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 (holidays and weekends included). Presentations must be completed on the assigned day unless prior arrangements have been made.

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.

Any use of GenAI systems to produce assignments for this course is not permitted. All work submitted for evaluation in this course must be the student's original work. The submission of any work containing AI generated content will be considered a violation of academic integrity.

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