**ETHNOBOTANY**

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES 542/ANTH 582/ISP 542

SPRING 2023

Dr. Kelly Kindscher, 11:00-12:15 AM, MW, 307 Lindley

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**Module/Date Topic, Assignment and reading for class**

1 January 18 The Ethnobotany Journey—Mine/Yours; Course Objectives; Edible Prairie Plants

2 January 23 Native Medicinal Plant Research Program; **Assignment 1 due**

2 January 25 Ethnobotany of a Species-*Case Study of Echinacea*, paper **Abstract Due**; Groups

3 January 30 Case Study: Ethnobotany of the Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) tribe;

3 Feb. 1 Methods in Ethnobotanical Study; Melvin Gilmore and the Arikara ethnobotany **Assignment 2 due**

4 Feb. 6 Osha (*Ligusticum porteri*), Ethnobotany and Sustainable medicinal plant harvest **Abstract Due**

4 Feb. 8 Decolonizing Historical Ethnobotany

5 Feb. 13 Omaha Ethnobotany and Signage Project for the National Park Service

5 Feb. 15 The Ethnobotany of Physalis species—wild tomatillos **Abstract Due**

6 Feb. 20 Wild Food and Nutrition, and a reading; also Herbarium species collecting

6 Feb. 22 Community Gardening; Paper: Southeast Asian Community Gardeners; **Paper Topic** (**Assignment 3 due)** Mid-term take-home directions will be given

7 Feb. 27 Herbarium and Plant Lists, Maps and GPS locations to find plants;

7 March 1 Medicinal Plant History—Entering the Other World; paper on peyote by Martin Terry to read; discuss **Mid-term Take-home Exam due**

8 March 6 Lecture/discussion on Discussion of At-Risk medicinal plants; read paper;

8 March 8 Osage Ethnobotany Project—Jennifer Moody; —**Assignment 4 due**

March 13, 15 Spring Break

9 March 20 Ethnic differences in Medicinal plant uses—paper to read; **Abstract Due**

9 March 22 Applied Ethnobotany: Kansas Medicinal Plants Overview; paper

10 March 27 Silphium Ethnobotany: New crop development and historical cultural uses.

10 March 29 Medicinal Plants for Veterinary Medicine;

11 April 3 Case Study: Anti-Aids/Anti-Cancer Compounds in Plants; read paper;

11 April 5 History of Diet—How did Neanderthal’s eat? read paper **Abstract Due**

12 April 10 Traditional Native American agriculture; read paper, and **Assign. 5 due**

12 April 12 Organic food and health, Mediterranean Diet; read papers

13 April 17 Group Project Presentation—Tribal Group Ethnobotany

13 April 19 Group Project Presentation-- Psycho-active/Hallucinogenic Plants

14 April 24 Group Project Presentation-- Plant Ash and its Uses in Food

14 April 26 Group Project Presentation-- Gender Roles in Plant Cultivation or Use

15 May 1 Group Project Presentation-- Cultivation of a Traditional Plant

15 May 3 **Paper or Project Due/**Future work and your ethnobotanical journey

Text: No required text, but I will assign readings that will be posted on Canvas

Optional Text: Medicinal Plants of the Prairie: An Ethnobotanical Guide. University Press of Kansas, Kelly Kindscher, 1992.

**Course Criteria and Objectives:**

Students are expected to actively participate in the class and discussions, read the papers and complete the assignments posted on Canvas, and write a final paper. Also, I want to:

1. Create an active learning environment for students to gain an understanding of concepts and principles relating to ethnobotany (the cultural use of plants for food, medicine and other uses). Lectures, presentations, student-led discussions, and projects will be used to foster this learning.
2. Engage students in learning about the value of plants in their own culture and how this compares to the intrinsic value of useful plants within other cultures.
3. Provide an opportunity for students to pursue their ethnobotanical interests by researching and writing a term paper on an ethnobotancial topic of their interest.

**Attendance/Participation:** Attendance is important for discussion, for which there is a grade. Please try not to be late because it is disruptive to our classroom environment, and you may be counted as absent.Your participation in your group is important to making it more interesting for all of us.

**Electronics Policy:** No phones or headphones are allowed during class time and should be shut off so that we can interact and visit with each other. Laptops and other devices may be considered appropriate at times (e.g., during group work).

**Mid-term Take-home Examination:** There will be a mid-term, take-home examination for which directions for this 3 to 5 page, single-spaced writing assignment will be given a week before it is due and posted on Canvas. There will be no final examination in the course. Instead, there is a paper or project.

**Final Paper/Project:** Your paper should be (approximately) 10-15 pages double-spaced (I am fine with single-spaced papers that would be of approximately equal number of words). The topic is of your choice (with review and approval from the instructor). Any of the topics used for the discussion sessions or an original topic of your choice will be appropriate, and I have some suggested topics on Canvas. Your chosen topic will be submitted as part of Assignment 2. The three references for that assignment must be books or journal articles; Web pages are not sufficient, although references can be found on the web. Also, any copying or lifting sections of text from the Internet are not allowed. Anyone who would like to know what grade they will likely receive for their final paper should submit a 1-2 page outline on their paper topic by April 10 of the material to be covered in the paper. I will then give the outline a grade for what a well-written, 10-15 double-spaced page paper would receive (this entire outline procedure is optional). The final paper is due the last day of class on May 3. Early submissions are fine, even desirable. Electronic submissions to Canvas must be posted by that date and need to be sent as a .doc or .pdf file extension. And if you make an electronic submission, it is considered as accepted when you hear back from me that I have received it. Please contact me if you do not receive a response. Also see Ethnobotany Paper Guidelines for additional information on references and formatting.

**Presentations:** You will volunteer or be assigned to work with a small group of 5 or 6 to make a class presentation and lead discussion on an ethnobotanical topic. The instructors will work with the team to help find suitable presentation materials. The discussion team should provide materials that can be posted on Canvas, including an outline, one class session before the discussion so that the materials can be posted on Canvas ahead of time. More details will be given on this in class.

**Assignments:** are little exercises for you to answer questions and turn them in. There are 5 of them and five points each. Each are under Canvas assignments. Due dates are on the syllabus. Turn in on Canvas or bring to class.

**Paper Abstracts:** There are 5 additional papers to read for class (5 points each), whose abstracts will receive a grade. I want you to read and write a half-page abstract on the importance or findings of the topic. The papers will be posted on Canvas and the due dates on the syllabus. Turn in on Canvas.

**Abstract Directions**

For writing your abstract, these should be about half a page single-spaced and should cover what the paper or chapter is about, and what you found particularly interesting. Critique and comments are fine. They are due at class on the day listed in the syllabus. I prefer you bring a hard copy to class, but electronic submissions are fine.

**Directions for Group Presentations:**

Presentations ideally should only be 15-20 minutes long so that we have plenty of time for discussion. I will help lead the discussions and everyone should be willing to talk/discuss. PowerPoint is encouraged for the presentation. And please have 3-5 questions to discuss and ideally make these your last slide. And not all group members need to present, so one or maybe two people can be designated to present, as it will be a better presentation. Also, please send those 3-5 questions and some short reading(s) to me to post more than one class session ahead. The short reading can be a paper, or ideally a compilation of things for us to look at—paper abstracts, images, web articles (avoid just sending links).

**Grading:** Course grade allocation and updated to March 20:

Mid-term take-home exam 100 points

Term Paper 150 points

Presentation by the group 50 points

Assignments (5) each 5 points 25 points

Paper abstracts (5) each 5 points 25 points

Participation/ attendance 50 points

Total 400 points