**Instructor**:

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Office hours: Wednesday 3:00 to 4:00 PM and by appointment

**Teaching Assistant:**

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Office hours: Wednesdays 3:00 to 4:00 PM and by appointment

**Course structure:** The course consists, in general, of two 80 minute lectures and one 50 minute discussion session per week. The discussion sessions mainly contain information NOT covered in lectures, including several hands-on activities, tours of UCR plant resources and special lectures by guest speakers who are world experts on their subjects. ***Attendance of the discussion sessions is mandatory.***

**Lecture Notes:** Lectures slides will be available on the class website, usually by 10 PM on the night before each class.

**Textbook**: Reading will be assigned from Levetin & McMahon “Plants & Society”, 5th edition. The UCR Bookstore has the 6th edition in stock. One copy of each edition will be on reserve in the Science Library. Both editions can be purchased from online booksellers for discounted prices.

**Grading:** The class will be graded based on a total of 1000 points. There will be three short quizzes during the quarter (150 points each, 450 points total) and one final quiz (250 points). The remaining 300 points will come from: a brief exercise on plants at the UCR Botanic Gardens, due on February 8 (50 points), a short paper about a food recipe, due on January 25 (100 points) and a group presentation during the discussion sections (150 points). Several of the discussion sections will have guest speakers or tours. ***A student who has any unexcused absence for a discussion section will lose points at a rate of 10 points per unexcused absence; it is each student’s responsibility to sign the attendance sheet and turn in any check list or questionnaire by the end of each discussion session.***

**Quizzes (150 points each).** All quizzes will be open notes and open book. No use of electronic devices will be allowed during the quizzes. Each student will have one opportunity during the quarter to recover half of any missed points on either Quiz #1 or Quiz #2 (not both). May 13 will be the deadline to submit a quiz for re-grading. To have a quiz re-graded, the student must write the correct answers for Quiz #1 or Quiz #2 in their own words, cite the source of this information (for example page numbers in textbook), turn in the corrections and the originally graded quiz, and then meet with the Instructor or TA to verbally defend their correct answer(s). A new grade will then be determined and the student will receive half of the point differential between the original and revised scores. For example, if a student scored only 90 points on a quiz, then it would be possible to increase the score to a maximum of 120 points (90 + ((150-90)/2)) by submitting correct answers by February 24 and then verbally defending the correct answers in an appointment with the TA or instructor no later than March 10.

**Recipe paper due January 25 (100 points**). Each student will write a paper of minimum length 3 pages (12 pt font, double spaced, 1” margins, not counting references) about a food recipe. References should be cited within the text, followed by a reference list after the text. At least one reference must be a more authoritative source than the textbook or Wikipedia. The paper should discuss at least 5 different plant ingredients in detail. This should include the common name, scientific name (this must be written correctly in italics or underlined (*Genus species*)– Basil’s scientific name is [*Ocimum basilicum*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_basil_cultivars), part of the plant used and place of origin of the domesticated plant. The correct botanical description must be used for the part of the plant used. For example, for onion it is not sufficiently precise to say “the entire onion after peeling”. Instead it might mention that “the bulb of the onion is chopped. The bulb consists of modified fleshy leaves and stem.” (Reference: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bulb)>. The paper should be written as an essay, composed of paragraphs with some interesting insights and comments – not written as preparation or cooking instructions. Bonus points will be awarded for turning the paper in early (10 points if on or before January 18th). A paper turned in on January 25 can receive a maximum of 100 points. No credit can be earned for a paper turned in after January 25. Papers should be submitted to iLearn. Midnight is the cutoff time for each date (the night of January 25 for example).

**Group Presentation (150 points).** Groups composed of four students will be established at the beginning of the quarter. Students are encouraged to partner with others who they do not already know. Each group will develop a 10-15 minute presentation using PowerPoint on any plant and its relevance to humans, and each student will be responsible for ¼ of the presentation time (~3 minutes). The “notes page” feature of PowerPoint should be used to include information that will be stated about each slide. The presentations will be posted on the class website after they have been presented in class (May 6 through May 27). Each person will receive 30 points simply for completing the assignment; the remaining 120 points will be determined by the quality of the preparation by the group and presentation by each student. Advice will be provided to help identify benchmarks for preparation and delivery of talks. A checklist will be used to guide the grading for the other 120 points.

**Extra Credit Opportunity.** Any student can earn a maximum of 20 bonus points by writing a short (3-5 pages, references cited in text), original paper related to any group presentation (their own group or another group). The due date for this will be June 5. There will be no date-determined additional bonus points or half credit for these extra credit papers.

**Plant Identification (50 points).** A short exercise on plants in the UCR Botanic Gardens is due on February 8. This exercise requires the statement of the common name, scientific name and part of the plant used.

**Other Bonus Opportunities (maximum 20 points).** At any time, a question may arise from a lecture or discussion which would be interesting to pursue. Each student will be allowed a maximum of two opportunities to earn up to 10 points to pursue the answer and encapsulate the information in a one slide presentation. Answers to questions must be ready for presentation by the Friday of the next week after the question arises, but will be welcome during any class up until that date. Each one-slide presentation will be limited to 2 minutes. The slide may be provided to the Instructor by email or brought before class on a USB drive. The instructor and TA will inform the student of the points earned.

**Other Bonus Opportunities and Penalties.** ***Bonus.*** Occasionally 1 bonus point will be awarded for being on time for the start of class. ***Penalties.*** Internet browsing, email, text messaging, etc. are not permitted. Any breach may incur a 2 point penalty, with no upper limit to the number of penalty points. Permission for unlimited texting and browsing throughout the quarter, not including quizzes and the final exam, can be purchased for 175 points.

**Determination of Grades**

Quizzes & Final Exam (70%):

three quizzes 450 points

final exam 250 points

Discussions (15%): (see Course Description for details)

group presentation 150 points

Papers (15%):

plant ID (due 2/8) 50 points

recipe paper (due 1/25) 100 points

extra credit paper (due 3/17) bonus points

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total 1000 points

maximum bonus ~50 points

980 - 1000+ A+

930 - 979 A

900 - 929 A-

875 - 899 B+

825 - 874 B

800 - 824 B-

775 - 799 C+

725 - 774 C

680 - 724 C-

630 - 679 D+

580 - 629 D

520 - 579 D-

420 - 519 F+

419 or below F

A fractional score at a grade boundary (for example 874.6) will receive the higher grade if the percentage score on the Final is higher than the percentage of cumulative points.

**Attendance of the discussion sections is mandatory. Each unexcused absence from a discussion section will incur a 10 point penalty. For example, there would be a penalty of 20 points for two unexcused absences.**

**Textbook:**

Levetin E, McMahon K. 2007. Plants and Society. 5th edition. WCB-McGraw-Hill, Boston. Note: 6th edition (2012) is a fine alternative. Both are on reserve in the Science Library.

***Note: this syllabus is subject to change, if necessary, as determined by the instructor.***