Common Course Outline
HORT 211
Plant Classification and Identification
2 credits

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

HORT 211 - 2 credits - Plant Classification and Identification explores the techniques for identifying plants in the field using simple instruments such as the hand lens and dissecting scope; emphasis will be placed on vascular plants, but other types will be discussed and studied in the classroom, laboratory, and field.

2 credits; 2 lecture hours per week.

Prerequisite: (RDNG 051 or LVR 1), HORT 110 or consent of instructor

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. describe the units (taxa) used in plant classification (taxonomy): Division, Class, Order, Family, Genus and Species;
2. distinguish cryptogamic plants from phanerogamic plants;
3. distinguish gymnosperms from angiosperms:
4. distinguish monocotyledons from dicotyledons;
5. describe the floral envelope and other salient characteristics of the following common monocot families: Gamineae (Poaceae), Cyperaceae , Liliaceae, Orchidaceae, and Amaryllidaceae;
6. describe the floral envelope and other salient characteristics of the following common dicot families: Rannunculaceae, Cruciferae (Brassicaceae), Leguminosae (Fabaceae), Labiatae (Lamiaceae), Umbelliferae (Apiaceae), Rosaceae, Scrophulariaceae, Caryophyllaceae, Solanaceae, Rubiaceae, Boraginaceae, Compositae (Asteraceae);
7. understand the construction of keys for plant identification;
8. use keys and floras (plant manuals) to identify plants at the family, genus and species levels in the laboratory and the field;
9. describe various habitats and their representative plant species;
10. describe various geographical zones and their representative plant species; and
11. collect, preserve and mount plant specimens.

Major Topics

I. Principles of plant classification
II. Recognize plants in the most widely represented families

III. How to collect and preserve plant specimens of various types
IV. How to identify plants at the genus and species levels

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member, but will include the following:

1. 2 Written Tests
2. Lab Practicum
3. Plant Collection
4. Attendance and Participation
5. 2 Saturday Field Trips

Other Course Information

This course is a Horticulture Program elective course

Date Revised: 04/08/2011