

# Virginia Western Community College

## BIO 215

### Plant Life of Virginia

#### Prerequisites

None.

#### Course Description

Focuses on identification and ecological relationships of the native plants of Virginia. Emphasizes shrubs, vines, weeds, wildflowers, ferns, and mushrooms.

**Semester Credits: 3**

**Lecture Hours: 2**

**Laboratory/Recitation Hours: 3**

#### Required Materials

##### **Textbooks:**

Communities of the Southern Appalachian Mountains and Piedmont. Spira. 1st edition. The University of North Carolina Press. ISBN: 9780807871720

Peterson Field Guide to Wildflowers – Northeastern/North-Central Regions. Peterson/McKenny. 1st edition. Houghton-Mifflin Co. ISBN: 9780395911723

#### Course Outcomes

**At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:**

- Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the Linnaean System of plant naming.
- List the major geological provinces in the State of Virginia and understand how they provide different habitats for plants.
- Identify unknown plants using a variety of dichotomous keys.
- Identify on sight a list of plants designated for students to recognize (approximately 200 species observed and identified on field trips).
- Recognize the major families of plants represented by the plants on the list to be identified on sight and understand the evolutionary relationships within vascular plants.
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- Describe a typical habitat for each of the plants on the list to be identified on sight.
- Discuss the ecological importance of selected plants from the list to be identified on sight, including invasive, alien species.

**BIO 215****Revised: Fall 2020**

- Explain ecological factors that are important for endangered and threatened plant species and rare plant communities in Virginia.
- Recognize key wetland plant species and discuss the adaptations of wetland plants.

**Topical Description**

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	Flowers and Vegetative Morphology Introduction to Keying, Field Trip on Campus
2	What is a Plant? Non-vascular and Vascular Plant Life Cycles
3	Introduction to Angiosperm Phylogeny 7 Key Angiosperm Families; Community Ecology
4	Angiosperm Ecology – Invasive Species; Wetland Plants Invasive Alien Plant Species Project Due
5	Seeds, Fruits and Dispersal
6	Angiosperm Ecology – Endangered & Threatened Plants ETS Project Due
7	Angiosperm Phylogeny – Re-visited: Pteridophytes (Ferns), Mosses and Liverworts Plant Communities – Final Wrap-up Plant Communities Presentations – Projects Due
8	Angiosperm Phylogeny of Foods & Fibers Angiosperm Phylogeny + Fruits and Seeds

**Notes to Instructors**

1. Departmental policy dictates that instructors do not allow students to keep tests.
2. A comprehensive final exam counting 15%-20% of the total grade will be given at the end of the semester.
3. The syllabus should state what the course grade will be based on, such as tests, quizzes, a comprehensive final exam, and any other assignments made by the instructor.
4. The VWCC Biology Department uses a 10-point grading scale.