

Augustana College

Botanical Illustration (1 credit). BIOL499 (Independent Study). Fall 2017

Course schedule and locations: MWF. Hanson 324. 10:00 am to 11:00 am

Instructor

Dr. Rafael Medina

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Office hours: W&F 9 to 10 am or by appointment (just send me an email to find the most suitable time for both of us). I am willing to discuss your progress and maximize your success as well as talk about scientific topics and opportunities for research. Email policy: Under ordinary circumstances, I will reply all your emails within a 24 hour time frame (M-F), most likely between 8:00 am and 6:00 pm. Please, include BIOL101 in the subject.

Course Goals

This hands-on course has as its main objective to develop and practice skills and techniques of scientific botanical illustration based both on fresh material and herbarium specimens. The enrolled students will receive a guided and personalized series of assessments to illustrate plants and reflect on the purpose of this activity. The students will also improve their understanding on plant anatomy and taxonomy. These goals are aligned with the college-wide learning outcomes of Disciplinary Knowledge and Creative Thinking.

Prerequisites

BIOL220 (General Botany)

Course format

The instructor and the students will meet regularly on Fridays to review the progress, discuss the new material and establish the assessment for the following week. The students are supposed to work independently on Monday and Wednesday, although they are encouraged to communicate with the instructor when they consider it relevant.

Evaluation

Students will be graded on the basis of their weekly assignments and the discussion on Friday of week 10.

Inclusive and respectful learning environment

I am committed to make time in lectures and labs a positive environment for learning irrespective of gender, sexual, racial, religious, or other identities. Students are invited to optionally share their preferred names and pronouns with the instructor and classmates. I expect you to maintain the highest ethical and scientific standards, honesty and courtesy at all times. Any kind of discrimination based on race, class, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, etc. will not be tolerated. Students creating disturbance during class/lab that interferes with the ability of other students to learn or distracts the instructor will be asked to leave. Students requiring classroom/lab accommodations or modifications because of a documented need should contact the Dean of Students and are requested to share this information with the instructor at their earliest convenience.

Tentative class schedule

Week	Day	Topic	Assignment
1	Aug 21 st	Illustration styles, uses in floras, tradeoffs of accuracy, abstraction and use of real specimens	Critical comment on style and purpose of different floras
	Aug 23 rd		
	Aug 25 th		
2	Aug 28 th	Leaf morphology	Sketches on angiosperm leaves
	Aug 30 th		
	Sep 1 st		
3	Sep 4 th	Labor Day	
	Sep 6 th	Diagnostic characters on leaves	Study on leaves of a genus
	Sep 8 th		
4	Sep 11 th	Shoot morphology and variations	Stem and leaf topologies and modifications
	Sep 13 th		
	Sep 15 th		
5	Sep 18 th	Basic flower structure	Sketches on flowers
	Sep 20 th		
	Sep 22 nd		
6	Sep 25 th	Inflorescences. Fruits	Sketches on inflorescences
	Sep 27 th		
	Sep 29 th		
7	Oct 2 nd	Diagnostic characters on reproductive structures	Study on flowers and inflorescences of a genus
	Oct 4 th		
	Oct 6 th		
8	Oct 9 th	Gymnosperms	Sketches on cones
	Oct 11 th		
	Oct 13 th		
9	Oct 16 th	Ferns	Sketches on fronds
	Oct 18 th		
	Oct 20 th		
10	Oct 23 rd	Synthesis	Study of a species for a flora
	Oct 25 th		
	Oct 27 th		