Expanded Course Description for 11:776:391

Diseases and Insects of Ornamental Plants
(3.0 credits)

Normally Offered: Spring every other year (even numbered years only). By Ann Gould, Richard Buckley.

Pre-requisites and other registration restrictions:
General Plant Pathology 11:776:302 and/or Insect Biology 11:370:381; Open to all majors

Format: Two 80-minute lectures weekly.

Description:
The objective of this course is to familiarize students with the common insect and disease problems that occur during the production and maintenance of ornamental plants in settings such as greenhouses and nurseries, residential properties, parks and recreational areas, and forested sites. Students will gain a basic understanding of the biology and ecology of these pests and the management of biotic and abiotic problems within a plant health care or integrated pest management context. In each class, several diseases or insect pests will be profiled. This is an excellent course for those interested in plant biosecurity. Students interested in plant pathology and biology, entomology, and landscape architecture should consider taking this course to strengthen their background in pest recognition.

Learning Goals:
• Recognize the major groups of pathogens and insects that affect ornamental plants in plant production, parks and forestry, or residential landscape settings
• Become familiar with the mechanisms that plant pathogens use to cause plant disease
• Become familiar with the mechanisms whereby insects cause damage to plants
• Be able to discuss methods for plant disease and insect management
• Be able to describe methods for plant disease and insect diagnosis

Measures of Assessment:
• Mid-term and final examination
• Weekly quizzes (on-line)
• Term paper
• Class participation and attendance
Course Website:
eCollege/eCompanion

Topics:
- Disease and insect diagnosis and management
- Pesticides for the ornamentals industry
- Scouting and monitoring techniques
- Diseases in greenhouse, nursery, landscape, parks, and forestry settings
- Defoliating and piercing-sucking insects and borers that attack ornamentals plants

Required and Recommended Course materials:
No text is required, but the following reference materials will be heavily utilized (copies will be placed on reserve at the Chang Library):


Supplementary readings will be available on reserve in Chang Library or online.

Policies for Exams, Assignments, Attendance, and Grading
There are weekly quizzes (administered online), homework, one mid-term, and one final examination. Examinations and quizzes are composed of true-false, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, compare-and-contrast, short answer, and essay questions. A term paper is required.

Course grades are distributed as follows: mid-term: 30%; final exam: 30%; quizzes 20%; assignments: 2%; written report: 15%; attendance 3%.

Grades are based on a ten-point scale (90-100% = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D).

Other Information:
1. Diseases of ornamental plants are addressed during the first half of the course followed by the mid-term exam; insects are addressed in the second half followed by the final exam. The final exam is not comprehensive.

2. Attendance is mandatory; as a courtesy, students unable to attend should forward an e-mail to the instructor before or shortly after the missed class.

3. A written report (approx. 10 pages) is required. Students may choose to prepare a disease lesson or a standard term paper on a disease or insect topic of their choice. The assignment will be evaluated on
accuracy of information, presentation and grammatical quality, and clarity. Proper citation of source materials is required; plagiarism will not be tolerated.