



**Biology 103      Native Plants and Wildflowers**  
Section 42877

Instructor: Barry Thomson

[thomsonb@smccd.net](mailto:thomsonb@smccd.net)

<http://www.smccd.net/accounts/thomsonb>

Office 9-257

Tel: (650) 306 3291/3792

Office Hours: TTh 12:10-1pm

Lecture	TTh 11:10 – 12:00pm	17-203
Lab	F 9:00- 12:05 pm	16-212

Welcome to Biol 103! The information in this Greensheet will help you to understand what is expected of you in this class and help you to succeed. You should retain it for reference throughout the course.

*“Would you tell me, please which way I ought to go from here?”*

*“That depends a good deal on where you want to get to”*

*Lewis Carroll, Alice in Wonderland*

## Learning Outcomes

This course will challenge you. In addition to thinking about the material in the course you will be encouraged to develop new skills and gain a better understanding of *how you learn*, and, hopefully, where you want to get to.

After taking this class you should be able to:-

- Describe vegetative and floral characteristics of plants.
- Use dichotomous keys to identify plants in the field
- Understand the human reliance and use of native plants in California
- Discuss the principles underlying ethnobotany and medicinal uses of plants
- Understand how plants are classified and named
- Explain plant endemism in terms of natural selection and adaptations to particular climate and soil types
- Enjoy hikes in County Parks with your new knowledge and skills!

## Structure of the Course.

### Lectures TTh 11:10 – 12:00 pm

Lectures will provide the conceptual basis underpinning the Friday field trips. The material covered in lecture will be assessed during the midterms and the final.

**Labs/ Field Trips Friday 9:00 – 12:05 pm**

Labs are provided as handouts, there is no lab manual.

Details of each field trips, including driving directions and meeting points will be provided on the Course webpage

**Assessment**

Midterms	2 x 50	200
Final	1 x 100	100
Labs/Field Reports	13 x 30	400
Field Final	1 x 100	100
Plant Spreadsheet Database	1 x 50	50
Total Points (approximately)		850

<b>Grades:</b>	
A	90% + :
B	80–89%
C	70 –79% :
D	60-69% :
F	< 60%

**Exams**

There will be two in-class midterms and a comprehensive final exam. The exams consist of both multiple choice questions and written answers. Exams will be graded out of the highest score in the class (which will constitute 100%).

**Labs**

Some of our Lab time will be spent on campus where we will be able to use the equipment and materials available to help understand some of the basic biology of plants.

**Field Trip Info**

For each Field trip students will download a handout from the website which features objectives for the field trip plus travel instructions and other useful information.

On the following Friday students will hand in their Labs/Field trip reports. Detailed instructions are available on the webpage.

**Field Notebook**

Take notes during lab and field trips in a notebook. These notes will include tips on identification, sketches, and notes. These notes will be used to write up the reports for each field report.

**Digital Photography**

For those of you who cannot or will not draw an alternative option is to take a digital photo of the plant in the field. It is important to make note of the sequence of photos you take in your field notebook- to help identify the plant later (e.g. Hidden Canyon (location) plant #2 photo 2.1 leaves, photo 2.2 flowers etc)

**Using your Smart Phone**

If you possess a smart phone you will be able to put it to use in the field in numerous ways

1. Google maps – to find our field location

2. Take digital photos of plants in the field and email them to yourself
3. Check your identification by comparing plants to Cal Photos database (<http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/flora/>)
4. Use the umbrella App when it rains

### **Rain Policy /Missed Fieldtrip**

As our field trip opportunities are limited **we go out if it rains**. Therefore you need to check the weather and dress appropriately. The only conditions that could result in a fieldtrip cancellation would be storms with high winds if we are going to be in a forest, or forest fires.

Only 13 out of the scheduled 14 labs/fieldtrips are graded. This allows you to miss a lab without it affecting your grade. The extra credit opportunity is designed to allow you to make up points if a lab/fieldtrip is missed.

### **Plant Spreadsheet**

Over the semester students will build up a list of all plants observed during the field trips. They will be organized in an Excel spreadsheet. A template for the spreadsheet can be downloaded from the course webpage.

### **Late Work Policy**

You have a week to research and write your reports, and complete your labs. If you cannot meet the deadline you automatically deduct 25% of your grade. Work later than one week will be accepted and will be graded. Make-up exams are generally not offered. If you notify me in advance that you cannot make the exam date, or if you have fulminating pseudomembranous colitis and have documentary evidence to the same effect, a make up exam may be offered, but it may not be for full credit.

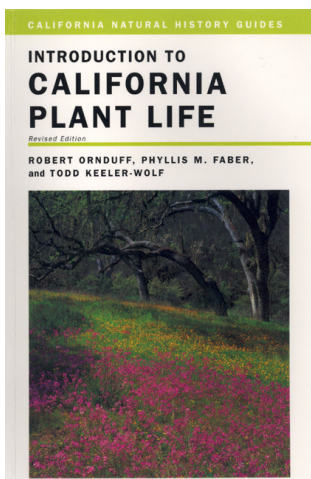
### Extra Credit

This is a relatively new class and there is a lot of information that I would like to include to build up student resources. For extra credit (25 points) students can contribute to the class website to help improve the resources available for future students. The type of projects that need attention include a catalogue of digital photographs from fieldtrips. Create a list of animation/ movie clips. If you are not familiar with computers I also want to compile a database of ethnobotanical information cataloguing medicinal and useful plants of the Bay Area.

### **Course Texts**

The lecture material is based on “Introduction to California Plant Life” by Robert Ornduff, Phyllis M. Faber, and Todd Keeler-Wolf (University of California Press 2003) ISBN 0-520-23704-8

For plant identification in the field we will use “Plants of the San Francisco Bay Region” Linda H. Beidleman and Eugene N. Kozloff (University of California Press 2003)



## Class Website

<http://www.smccd.net/accounts/thomsonb/nativeplants>

## Biol 103 - Native Plants and Wildflowers

Spring 2011



I will use the class website to post study questions, midterm study guides, lecture outlines and handouts. You will need to check the website weekly in order to download and print the study questions for the chapters in Ornduff, Faber and Keeler-Wolf.

### Lecture Outlines and Study Questions

A set of study questions accompanies each chapter in the textbook. The questions in the study guide reflect my interpretation of what you should learn from each chapter for our class. These questions will range from general to challenging questions. They are asked in a way that makes you think about the concepts, rather than remembering them without understanding them. You should download the outlines and bring them to each lecture.

### Student Conduct

Cheating includes copying and plagiarism. Copying another student's work during exams, or reading from notes will result in confiscation of the exam, a zero for that particular exam, and you run the considerable risk of being expelled from the class. Students caught cheating may have this written on their academic record.

Plagiarism includes copying material directly out of a written source and claiming this work as your own. It also includes **copying and pasting text directly from websites**. Do not do this- this is also cheating. Use "quotation marks", and cite sources where appropriate.

If you choose to drop the class it is **your responsibility** to officially drop the class at the Admissions Office, and remove your name from the Official Class Roster. Failure to drop the class may result in you receiving an F for the class.

## Important Dates and Deadlines

Date	Due
2/21	Midterm #1
4/11	Midterm #2
4/26	Last day to drop with a "W":
5/18	Field Final
5/24	Lecture Final

## Services

Cañada College has a wide range of student support services. You can find details and contact information online, in the Fall Course Catalogue, or use the links on the course website. The Library also provides information on how to research articles and how to cite sources.

It is in your interest to make full use of all services available to you while you are a college student. All these services are provided for your benefit.

306-3452 Counselling, Career and Transfer Services

306-3259 Disabled Student Program

306-3300 EOPS/CARE

306-3307 Financial Aid

306-3494 International Student Program

306-3348 Learning Center

306-3316 Tutorial Center

306-3316 Writing Center 306-3120 MESA Center