STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

♦ To become familiar with vegetative and reproductive characters useful in identifying flowering plants.

♦ To learn procedures for identifying vascular plants, including the dichotomous key and species descriptions.

♦ To recognize common families of flowering plants.

♦ To learn techniques for the documentation, collection, and preservation of vascular plants.

♦ To understand and be able to discuss the principles and practices of plant taxonomy and systematics, and apply these to problems encountered in nature.

ACTIVITIES:

a) **Phytography Grade** (100 points - based on the average of four phytography quizzes) - be able to identify vegetative and floral characters and apply terms that are used in the identification of flowering plants. Resources for Phytography are available on Blackboard, Plant Taxonomy Lab: Phytography.

b) **Key Quizzes** (100 points, 10-10 point quizzes) - identify unknown plant specimens using a key. Some (6 of 12) key quizzes will be collaborative. For these you may work with other students. For the other 6 key quizzes you must work alone with identify the specimen using only a key. The best five scores in each category will be used to calculate the key quiz average.

c) **Family Review Exercises** - (100 points) - based on the average of exercises on the characteristics of the required families. The families to be included are listed on the "List of Families for Family Recognition Exam". Information on each of the families is available in Field Identification of the 50 Most Common Plant Families in Temperature Regions; additional resources are available on Blackboard, Plant Taxonomy Lab: Family Reviews.

d) **Family Recognition Examination** (100 points) - recognize specimens to family without the use of a reference. Families on the exam are those that have been reviewed during the semester.
e) **Plant Collection** - (200 points) a plant collection representing 25 different NATIVE vascular species is required, a field notebook and an electronic copy of your field notes must accompany the collection. Additional information is available on Blackboard, Plant Taxonomy Lab: Plant Collection.

f) **Field Trip** - two Saturday field trips will be taken during the semester. Students are required to attend one of these. Details on locations of these field trips will be given in class. Failure to attend a field trip will result in your course grade being lowered one letter grade. Two points will be added to the final course average for students who attend and actively participate (i.e. collect, prepare, and identify specimens) in both field trips.

g) **Class Exercises** (100 points) - this score will be based on an average of homework assignments and exercises conducted throughout the semester (i.e. spelling tests, practice case studies, nomenclature exercise, species review paper, classification exercises).

h) **Lecture Exam #1, Lecture Exam #2** (100 points each) Lecture exams will be a combination of fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and essay questions.

**GRADING:**

The average of graded items listed above and the chart below will determine grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Number of Points</th>
<th>Grade Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>89.5-100</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>79.5-89.4</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>69.5-79.4</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>59.5-69.4</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59.4 and below</td>
<td>Failure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please understand that your grade will be based on the points you earn during the semester. No extra credit opportunities or extra points will be given to individual students. Your grades will be posted on Blackboard ([http://blackboard.angelo.edu](http://blackboard.angelo.edu)) throughout the semester.

**COURSE MATERIALS:**

Diggs, G. M., B. L. Lipscomb, R. J. O'Kennon. 2002. *Shinners and Mahler’s Illustrated Flora of North Central Texas*. The key can be purchased either at the ASU Bookstore or online; in addition the key is available in Adobe PDF at [https://www.brit.org/brit-press/nctexasflora](https://www.brit.org/brit-press/nctexasflora). *You must have a copy of the key that is usable both in lab and in the field.*

Struwe, L. 2009. Field identification of the 50 most common plant families in temperature regions (including agricultural, horticultural, and wild species). Rutgers University. Available for PDF download at: [http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~struwe/](http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~struwe/)
Blackboard will be used extensively in this course; you are enrolled in two courses, Blackboard Plant Taxonomy Lecture and Blackboard Plant Taxonomy Lab.

Illustrations (photographs, line drawings, etc.) are very useful in checking an identification of a specimen, particularly when you first encounter that family or genus. An illustration often gives a much faster and more accurate mental picture of a plant than a written description. However, making a determination to species by viewing a picture is often not possible with plants. No illustrated guide includes all the species; many plant species never appear in any illustrated guide. Also a feature that may not be visible in an illustration can only identify some plant species. For these reasons and to promote the use of the key, I insist on restricted use of illustrated guides. After keying a specimen, if you wish to use an illustrated guide (of your choosing) to check your identification, you may do so. You ABSOLUTELY MAY NOT use the illustrated guide BEFORE keying the specimen. You will NOT be allowed to use an illustrated guide during a key quiz.

A GPS unit or a cell phone with GPS capability, while not required, will be very useful in this course. A few GPS units are available for check out to students for 24 hour time periods.

OFFICE HOURS:

My office is CAV127B (telephone 486-6656). My office hours are: M 11am-1pm, T 11am-noon, W 9:30-noon and by appointment. You may also reach me via e-mail: Bonnie.Amos@angelo.edu. Please come see me if you have any questions or problems - or just to get acquainted.

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is mandatory. It is not possible to learn to key or gain an understanding of plant taxonomy if you do not attend class. I expect you to be present for all scheduled sessions.

AMERICAN DISABILITY ACT:

Persons with disabilities that may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAY:

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to me prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.
DISHONESTY:

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Any instances of cheating or other forms of dishonesty will result in an automatic 0 on the test, quiz or assignment involved. Based upon my interpretation of the seriousness of your indiscretion, you may also face additional disciplinary action. It is your responsibility to display behavior such that you will not be accused of dishonesty and you are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code (see the Angelo State University Student Handbook).