Instructor:  Dr. Rick Williams  
Office: 436 Life Sciences Bldg. and Ray J. Davis Herbarium, 431 Museum Bldg.  
Phone: 282-2948 (biology) or 282-2815 (herbarium)  
Email: willcha2@isu.edu  
Office Hours: Tues 5-6 pm (except test nights) in classroom, or by email appointment

Schedule:  Tuesdays 6-9pm (10 pm on field trip nights) Plant Science Lab (PLSCI) 117

Course website:  http://www.isu.edu/~willcha2/  follow the links to Teaching and BIOL 214

Objectives:
(1) Gain knowledge and appreciation of local plants, plant communities, and their uses by man and other organisms  
(2) Learn to recognize and name common local plants and plant families  
(3) Learn common names and some scientific names of local plants  
(4) Learn the basic skills and terminology to identify plants and plant families  
(5) Develop the knowledge to collect and preserve plant specimens  
(6) Learn about the publications and resources available for plant identification and study  
(7) Make life more interesting because of an increased knowledge of the surroundings in which we live

Recommended Texts (available at bookstore): these books are helpful but not mandatory  
(ISBN 1-55105-088-9)  
(ISBN 0-8040-0149-9)

Other Useful Texts (available locally or on the web):  

Course Format:  
In this course you will be required to know, from memory and properly spelled, the common names and common family names for the plants studied from the plant lists. The scientific name (genus + specific epithet = species) is optional and if learned along with the species name bonus points will be awarded. The exception to this will be two plants of which the full scientific name, genus and species, will be required including, the Idaho State tree and the Idaho State flower. All of the necessary information and names are listed on the Plant Lists.
During the winter months (Jan-Mar) activities will take place in the classroom. These will include (1) examination of plant materials to learn the terminology necessary to describe and identify plants, (2) use of basic keys for plant identification, (3) lectures describing the diagnostic characteristics of common local plants on the plant lists, (4) examination of pressed specimens of plants on the lists, and (5) four mid-term exams (more below). During the final few weeks of the semester (in April, weather permitting), we will be taking field trips in the Pocatello vicinity. This will allow us the opportunity to see many of the plants we will be studying in their natural habitats and communities. **These field trips are a required portion of the course.** Plants may be collected for the required plant collection and must be prepared for pressing and drying upon return that night. Transportation will be by ISU vehicles and **PETS AND CHILDREN ARE NOT ALLOWED.**

**Grading:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 Regular Exams (100 points each)</td>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Final Exam (comprehensive)</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plant collection (250 points) and Field Log (50 points)</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class attendance and participation (10 points per week)</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1000</strong></td>
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**Note:** Because lab practical exams can only be set up once - there are NO MAKE-UP EXAMS

MAKE-UP is only through the BONUS POINTS:

- Plant collection – up to 10 bonus plants @ 5 points each = 50 points
- Correct scientific species name (Genus + specific epithet) on tests @ 1 point each = ? points
- Correct scientific family name the first time it is used on tests @ 1 point each = ? points

*Learning scientific names of plants, although not required for this course, can substantially improve your course grade and is an essential skill for further work in botany.*

The **course grade** will be based on a total of accumulated points acquired throughout the semester, 550 from exams, 300 from your plant collection and field log, and 150 for attendance, participation and in-class assignments. The major portion of each exam will involve identifying unlabeled plant specimens as to common family name and common plant name (If the plant has two or more common names, two common names will be required). The first exam will also emphasize vegetative and reproductive terminology as applied to representative plant specimens. Exams will also include questions from lecture material, and field trips.

Common questions on exams may include:

- A plant’s edibility and uses to *Homo sapiens* and/or wildlife
- The location or habitat at which it may be found
- How it is pollinated or its seeds dispersed
- Diagnostic characteristics of the plant or plant family
- Where in Idaho it is found
- Whether it is native, introduced, or cultivated
The plant collection is a required part of the course and it will consist of 25 plant specimens that have been properly collected, pressed, dried, labeled, and identified along with an accurate field log for the collection (see Plant Collection Procedures). Each plant in the collection will count 10 points for a total of 250 points. A field log will be required and will have a 50 point value and will accompany the collection when it is turned in at the end of the course. The collection with the field log will have a maximum point value of 300 points. An additional 10 bonus plants at 5 points each can be included for 50 bonus points. The bonus plants must also be included in the field log. The collection will be due on or before the final exam on May 4, 2010.

Final grades will be based on a standard percentage scale out of the total 1000 points possible: 93-100% = A, 90-92% = A-, 87-89% = B+, 83-86% = B, 80-82% = B-, 77-79% = C+. 73-76% = C, 70-72% = C-, 60-70% = D, < 60% = F. Bonus points can be used to offset a missed exam or low grade but they can only elevate the course letter grade one level, i.e. move a C+ to a B+.

Absences: Attendance is important and absences will negatively affect your grade (10 points per week for attendance). Arrive on time and turn cell phones off at all times. If you must be late or absent from a class please notify the instructor prior to class. A simple phone call or email as soon as possible would be appreciated. You may also leave a message with the Biological Sciences Department at 282-3765.

Academic Integrity: Read and follow the “Code of Student Conduct” in your student handbook. Cheating will not be tolerated. Cheating includes looking at another person’s exam answers or bringing any type of “cheat sheet” to the exams. At the instructor’s discretion, cheating can result in expulsion from the course and a failing grade.

Study Tips:
1. Before coming to class, look over and become familiar with the names of the plants on each list and read about them in the suggested books. If you do this in preparation for each class, it will save you study time and you can concentrate on the information about the plants during class.
2. Learn both the common and scientific names of plants. Knowing scientific names on exams can add substantially to your point total.
3. Plan your schedule from now on so that you can come in a few times before exams to look at the study specimens in the cabinets outside the lab. Four 30-minute sessions will be several times more beneficial than one 2-hour study session.