COURSE OUTLINE

Course Number: OHT 121  
Course Title: Herbaceous Plant Materials

Hybrid Class- Lecture On-line
Lab- Monday from 3:30 pm to 5:20 pm in the Greenhouse

Course Instructor: Lecture Instructor: Ron Rabideau  
rabidear@mccc.edu  
609-570-3512  
HG-100 Greenhouse  
Lab Instructor: Ron Rabideau

Text: Armitage’s Garden Perennials  
Author: Allan M. Armitage  
Publisher: Timber Press

Catalog Description:  
A study of cultivated, ornamental herbaceous plant species. Emphasis is placed on identification, use, height, texture, cultural requirements and season of bloom. Special topics include designing an herbaceous garden with year round seasonal interest, insect pests, diseases and growing techniques and container gardening.

Prerequisites:  
OHT 101 or permission of the Program Coordinator

Grading:  
Quizzes 25%  
Mid-Term Exam 15%  
Lab Participation 15%  
Calendar Project 15%  
On-line Participation 15%  
Final Exam 15%

Mercer’s Grading System:  
A 93-100  
A- 90-92  
B+ 87-89  
B 83-86  
B- 80-82  
C+ 77-79  
C 70-76  
D 60-69  
F 0-59
**Attendance Policy:**

Since this course covers an extensive amount of material over the semester, **every Lab is important and therefore attendance is mandatory.** Quizzes will be given on a weekly basis and if you are absent, you will miss a quiz. If you miss a lab, quizzes are difficult to make up and you **will receive a zero for a missed quiz.**

**Importance of Logging Into BlackBoard**

You are expected to log into BlackBoard several times throughout the week. You will be expected to view each week’s lesson including the Power Point Presentation, Weekly Handout, Weekly Blog, Lesson Objectives…etc. The materials found on BlackBoard are excellent study tools to help you learn all the plants throughout this course. The course was designed as a blended/hybrid class, proper participation on-line and during the in-class lab will allow for success in the course. On-line participation is worth 15% of your overall course grade. Time spent online is tracked!

**Course Objectives:**

*To make the student aware of the remarkable diversity of herbaceous plant material that is suitable for landscape design purposes.

* To develop the student’s knowledge of various diseases and insects that attack herbaceous plants

* To develop the student’s knowledge of the factors of an herbaceous garden, i.e. design elements, color, habit and seasonal interest

* To develop knowledge of the major techniques used for propagation of herbaceous plants

* To develop a maintenance schedule for a herbaceous border

**Behavioral Objectives:**

Upon completion of the course, each student should be able to:

- Identify herbaceous plant material by both the Botanical (Latin) and Common name
- Know the habit, flower color, foliage texture and primary use of each plant
- Design a garden based on bloom times and year-round seasonal interest
- Identify common pests and diseases associated with each plant
**Quizzes:**

They will be given every week at the beginning of Lab, unless otherwise noted on the course schedule. Quizzes will be based on the previous week’s material. Quizzes will focus on identification only. You will need to know the Botanical and Common Name of each plant shown. Quizzes can either be given as live specimen or shown on Power Point and you will be asked to identify each slide. No extra time will be given if you are late to a quiz. You will receive a 0 for any missed quiz!! All quizzes will be marked according to Mercer’s Grading system (numerical grade), your lowest quiz grade will be dropped, all quiz grades will be averaged and this grade will be 25% of your overall Herbaceous Plant Material grade.

**Mid Term and Final:**

Both exams will be written and cover all aspects of the plant material covered in lecture including; bloom color, time of bloom, plant’s habits, foliage texture, susceptible pests and diseases and plant’s use in garden. There will not be any identification on the exams, but the plant material may be referred to by the Botanical or Common Name.

Midterm = 15% of grade    Final = 15% of grade

**Lab Participation:**

Lab is the only opportunity you will have to see live-specimen plant material. All quizzes and exams will be given in lab. Lab will be held every week regardless of the weather conditions. Please come to Lab every week prepare to participate in hands-on activities. In order to participate in Lab, you **MUST** wear closed-toe shoes (sneakers or boots) to protect your feet, this is a MCCC rule. Flip Flops and Sandals are not allowed.

Lab is a unique opportunity to work hand-on with a variety of plant materials. It is also a time to practice various Horticulture Techniques. Various field trips will also be planned throughout the semester. Participation in Lab is worth 15% if your overall course grade.

**Project:**

Develop a wall calendar that depicts a 12 month year. Choose at least 4 perennials that are in peak bloom each month. For winter months you may need to use perennials that display unique foliage or texture. Creating the bloom calendar will be a way to create an herbaceous garden with consistent blooming throughout the year. It helps to have overlapping bloom sequences. Think of the project as an entire garden, the plants you pick will be the focal points throughout the garden. Your finished project should look like a calendar. Each month should be labeled and contain at least 4 perennials depicted with either colored drawings or pictures from magazines; labeled with both Botanical and Common names. Hint: You can use any 12 month calendar and paste your material over the existing calendar. Project is worth 15% of final grade.
**Cell Phone Policy:**

Cell phones are a distraction to those around you. MCC has restricted their use in the classroom. Please have respect for your classmates and the instructor by turning the ringer off your phone for the duration of class. If you must make a phone call, please do during a break or after class. This policy also prohibits the practice of text messaging during class time.

**Field Trips:**

You are expected to attend all Labs. Lab field trips are required. The Mid-Term and Final will include some questions pertaining to the field trips. The trips are on a strict time schedule so please show up on time for Lab. We will discuss the field trip details as the semester progresses. Trips are rain or shine events and you should be prepared and dress accordingly. While on field trips please be courteous and respectful to the places we are attending and be prepared to take notes. We will be traveling in the Mercer vans to our field trip locations.

**Schedule of Online Coursework and Labs**

| Week #1 | Online Coursework: Lesson 1- Annuals #1  
Lab: Review Course Outline and Annuals #1 |
| Week #2 | Online Coursework: Lesson 2- Annuals #2  
Lab: Quiz-Annuals #1, Review Annuals #2  
Perennial Planting |
| Week #3 | Online Coursework: Lesson 3- Herbs and Grasses  
Lab: Quiz-Annuals #2, Review Herbs and Grasses |
| Week #4 | Online Coursework: Lesson 4- Perennials #1  
Lab: Quizzes- Herbs and Grasses, Review Perennials #1 |
| Week #5 | Online Coursework: Lesson 5- Perennials #2  
Lab: Quiz-Perennials #1, Review Perennials #2 |
| Week #6 | Online Coursework: Lesson 6- Perennials #3  
Lab: Quiz-Perennials #2, Review Perennials #3 |
| Week #7 | Online Coursework: Lesson 7- Perennials #4  
Lab: Quiz-Perennials #3, Review Perennials #4 |
| Week #8 | Online Coursework: Review Materials for Midterm Exam  
Lab: Quiz-Perennials #4 |
Week #9  
Online Coursework: Lesson 8- Perennials List # 5  
Lab: MIDTERM EXAM  
(Annuals 1&2 Perennials 1-4 & Herbs/Grasses List)  
Review Perennials # 5

Week #10  
Online Coursework- Lesson 9- Perennials List # 6  
Lab: Quiz -Perennials # 5, Review Perennials # 6  
Perennial Planting/ Transplanting

Week #11  
Online Coursework: Lesson 10- Ferns List  
Lab: Quiz –Perennials # 6, Review Ferns  
Perennial Planting/ Transplanting (cont’d)

Week #12  
Online Coursework: Bulbs List  
Lab: Quiz- Ferns, Review Bulbs, Calendar Project Preparation

Week #13  
Online Coursework: Container Gardening  
Lab: Quiz- Bulbs, Calendar Project Preparation

Week #14  
Online Coursework: Review Materials for Final Exam  
Lab: Calendar Project is Due and Presented

Week #15  
Online Coursework: Review Materials for Final Exam  
Lab: FINAL EXAM  
(Perennials 5 & 6, Ferns, Bulbs and Container Gardening)

Lecture and Lab Schedules are tentative and subject to change due to weather, transportation issues and schedules of the destinations we are going to on the field trips.