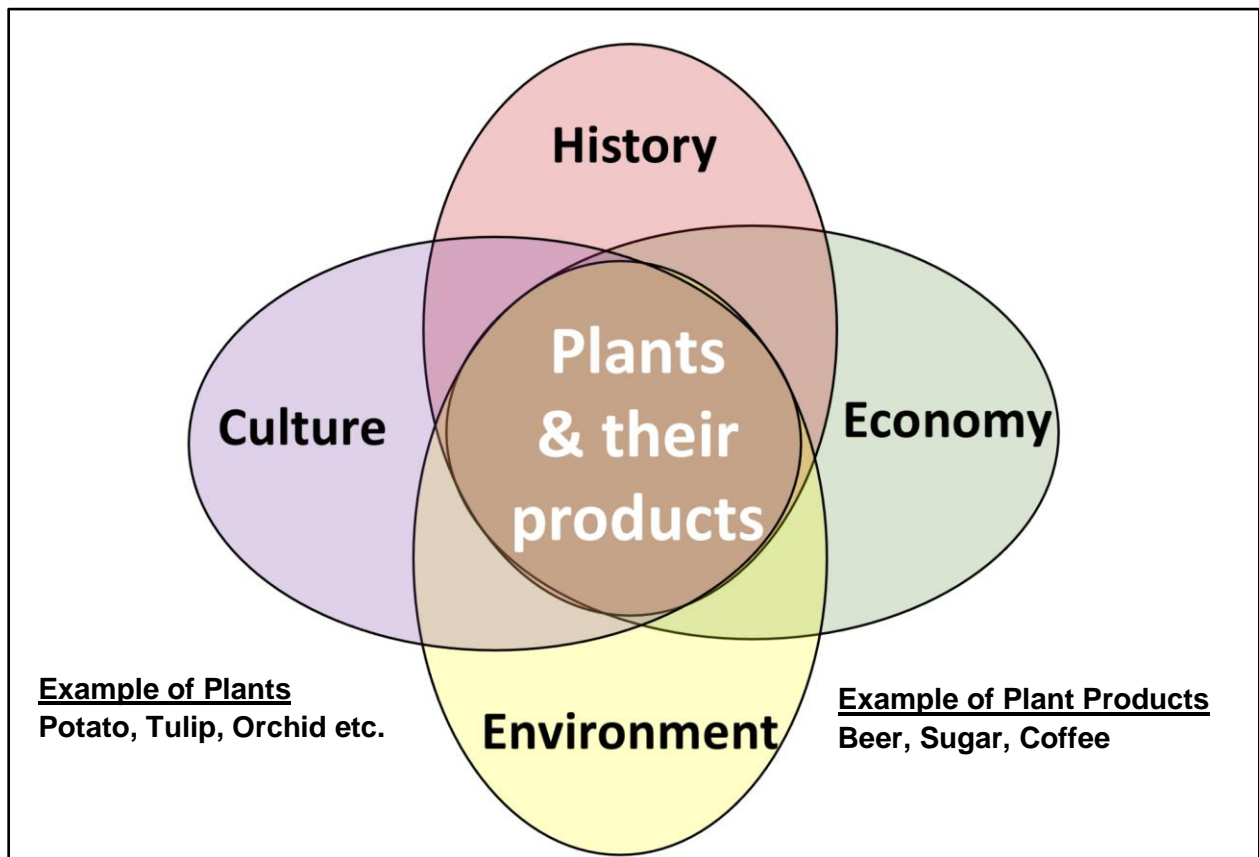


Plants & People

BIOL 334 | Spring 2023

Plants dominate the world and they dominate our cuisine. Plants influence people to the point of dominating our lives, even our politics. The vegetables we push around our plates have strange histories. Stimulants have even stranger histories. Our relationships with plants are super-dynamic. It ranges from farmers squeezing profits out of simple cash crops, to rogue governments looking to their farmers for crops that will pay the military bills. Plants are freighted with symbolism. Some are buried deep in religion. Plants weave their way into our music and poetry, yet others are the target of derision and hatred, causing people to protest en masse. Food riots are always plant food riots. Famines are always due to mismanaged food supplies. And yes, plants can make us laugh, too. There will be lots to discuss.



We acknowledge and respect the ɫəkʷəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Course details

Time: Tue/Wed/Fri (8:30 am – 9.20 am)

Classroom: Human and Social Development Bldg (HSD) A240

Instructional Team

Instructor: Dr. Kankana Ghoshal (She, her) **Email:** kankanag@uvic.ca

Teaching Assistant: Sarah Lane **Email:** slane@uvic.ca

Office hours: Every Thursday from 8:30-9:20 am via zoom.

Prerequisite

Minimum third-year standing. If you are a Biology Major this is a reminder that Plants and People is a science elective for everyone except Biology majors for whom it is an elective, i.e. not a science elective.

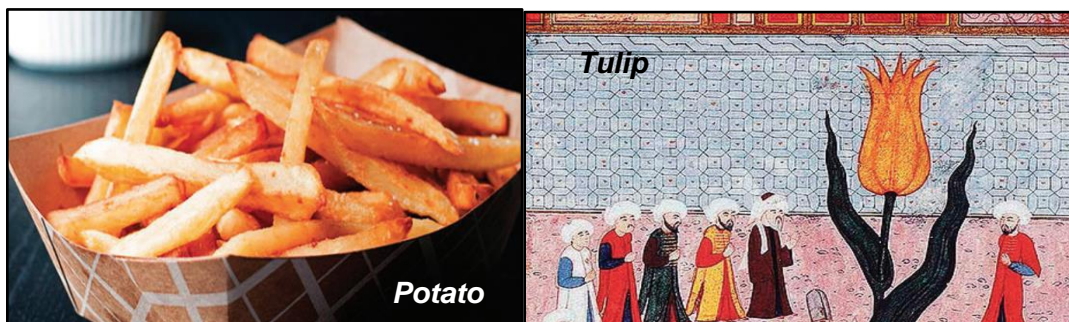
Course philosophy

During this course we will cover aspects of biology, evolution and history of some common economic plants. At one level the course is roughly divided according to plant parts, e.g. flowers, seed. At another level the course has elements of participation in the great outdoors of Finnerty Gardens as well as through online and face-to-face discussions (packback and interactive lectures) that will provide you with opportunities to expand your understanding of plants.

Course learning objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Recognize how people facilitated the migration of plants.
- Describe how plants and their products shaped our history.
- Explain the importance of plants in a country's economy.
- Relate how plants are an intrinsic part of a culture.
- Identify how the balance between plants and people is critical to maintaining the environment of our mother earth.
- Develop communication and collaboration skills through discussions via packback.



Expectation in terms of number of hours per week

Reading: varies by week, ranging from none to a couple of chapters.

Packback: usually takes one to two hours.

Safety Net

I would like everyone to succeed, so please avail yourself of these resources.

If you miss a class: all lectures will be available through slides, lecture notes and in audio format in Brightspace following the lecture.

Practice questions: of the exact type in the quizzes will be posted regularly.

What you need to purchase

Required text: Levetin and McMahon—Plants and Society. McGraw-Hill. The eighth edition (2020) is acceptable.

Packback: For the first packback community, it costs \$29. Each subsequent community is minus -\$3, if you register with the same email id. If you cannot afford Packback, register anyway and contact the folks who are running our course at Packback to request a waiver. They have a scholarship program of sorts and you might qualify. Refer to www.packback.co/product/pricing for more information.

How to Register on Packback: An email invitation will be sent to you this week or early next week from help@packback.co prompting you to finish registration. If you don't receive an email (be sure to check your spam), you may register by following the instructions below:

1. Create an account by navigating to <https://app.packback.ca> and clicking "Sign up for an Account"
Note: If you already have an account on Packback you can log in with your credentials.
2. Then enter our class community's lookup key into the "Looking to join a community you don't see here?" section in Packback at the bottom of the homepage.
Community Lookup Key: **c53743ba-c450-4953-b541-abe1377f63ef**
3. Follow the instructions on your screen to finish your registration.

How to Get Help from the Packback Team: If you have any questions or concerns about Packback throughout the semester, please read their FAQ at help.packback.co. If you need more help, contact their customer support team directly at help@packback.co.

For a brief introduction to Packback Questions and why we are using it in class, watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OV7QmikrD68>



What you need to know about evaluation and grading

Mark breakdown	%
Participation (Packback-regulated)	16
Quizzes	84
Total	100

The Quiz mark: is based on the best four out of five quizzes. Therefore, each quiz is worth 21 %.

Quizzes will cover material in the posted lecture notes as well as in the assigned readings, but **not** in Packback. Information in readings is testable. For any lecture that has assigned readings, 20 % of the questions on a quiz will be from the readings. The questions are usually obvious.

All quizzes will be online.

Packback: For most of you this is something completely new. You should think of it as an “ideas lab”. It is designed to help teach you to ask – and answer – questions in an academic fashion. This platform is integrated into Brightspace and will be monitored. Properly constructing relevant questions opens up a lot of the underlying issues in how we understand plants, not to mention how you personally relate to plants. Packback definitely provides a space in which you can express yourself.

Packback is required for the participation mark. Beginning in the second week, you are required to post one question and answer two questions. You must reach a curiosity score of 60%. The Packback exercise is due before 17:00 each Friday afternoon.

Your Packback mark is based on the best 8 out of 10. They are worth 2% each.

Missing a quiz: If you expect to miss a quiz for any reason, please notify me and we will work out alternative arrangements. If you are not able to give prior notice, get in touch with me as soon as you are able.

All grades at UVic are submitted as percentiles, which is how it will appear on the academic transcript. Percentiles above 0.5 % will be rounded up.



Lecture topics, Readings, Quiz & Packback Schedule

Tentative Schedule of Lectures, Quizzes (bold & yellow), Packback due dates (green)

Week	Day & Date	lecture	Readings	Quiz	Packback
1	T 10-Jan-23	1.Introduction	None	None	Introduction PPT
	W 11-Jan-23	2.Potato	Chapter 14 (everything except cassava, taro, Jerusalem artichoke; don't bother reading A closer look 14.2) and pg 35-37 on root structure		
	F 13-Jan-23	3.Tulips	Pg 71-72 (A closer look 5.1, Mad about Tulips)		
2	T 17-Jan-23	4.Sugar	Pg 53-54 (A Closer Look: Sugar & Slavery); 286-287 (The high price of chocolate); 313-314 (The cotton gin) 314. (Table 18.2 Slavery and Cotton Production in the South). Pg 33-35 on stem structure	None	Packback 1 due Friday
	W 18-Jan-23	5.Dendrochronology	A Closer Look 3.1 Studying ancient tree rings; 37-38		
	F 20-Jan-23	6.Rubber & Honey	Pg. 81, 398, 508-509		
3	T 24-Jan-23	None	None	Quiz 1 (Lec. 2-6)	Packback 2 due Friday
	W 25-Jan-23	7. Tobacco	370-374; pg. 37-41 on leaf structure		
	F 27-Jan-23	8.Psychoactive drugs	Chapter 20		
4	T 31-Jan-23	9. Marijuana	Chapter 20	None	Packback 3

	W 1-Feb-23	10. Orchids	pages 70-74 on floral structure; 299-300 (Vanilla)		due Friday
	F 3-Feb-23	11. Garden History	None		
5	T 7-Feb-23	12. Finnerty Gardens	None	Quiz 2 (Lec. 7-12)	Packback 4 due Friday
	W 8-Feb-23	None	None		
	F 10-Feb-23	13. Citrus Fruit	Pg. 95 -97. Pg. 86-87 on fruiting structures		
6	T 14-Feb-23	14. Pineapple & Avocado	Pg. 86-87	None	Packback 5 due Friday
	W 15-Feb-23	15. Olive Oil	-		
	F 17-Feb-23	16. Tomatoes & Peppers	Pg. 89 - 93; 287-289		
Reading Break : Feb 20-24, 2023					
7	T 28-Feb-23	17. Rosid Fruit	Pg. 94-95	Quiz 3 (Lec. 13- 18)	-
	W 1-Mar-23	18. Wine	Pg. 447-454		
	F 3-Mar-23	-	-		
8	T 7-Mar-23	19. Vodka	Pg. 457-465 (including A Closer Look: Alcohol & Health) you do not need to read Fungi as Food). pages 88-89 on seed structures.	None	Packback 6 due Friday
	W 8-Mar-23	20. Gin	None		
	F 10-Mar-23	21. Beer	Pg. 454-457		
9	T 14-Mar-23	22. Sunflower	Fig. 1.3	None	Packback 7

	W 15-Mar-23	23. Tea, Coffee & Chocolate	Ch. 16		due Friday
	F 17-Mar-23	24. Hot beverages	Ch. 16		
10	T 21-Mar-23	-	-	Quiz 4 (Lec. 19-24)	Packback 8 due Friday
	W 22-Mar-23	25. - Cotton	Pg. 312 -315		
	F 24-Mar-23	26. Poisonous Plants	Ch. 21		
11	T 28-Mar-23	27. Plants in Medicine	Ch. 19	None	Packback 9 due Friday
	W 29-Mar-23	28. GMO	None		
	F 31-Mar-23	29. Climate Crisis & Plants	None		
12	T 4-April-23	30. Stunning plants	None	Quiz 5 (Lec. 25-30)	Packback 10 due Thursday
	W 5-April-23	-	-		



University information and support

Academic calendar

To find the Academic Calendar, go to <https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/>.

To find information on a list of important dates in the academic year, go to <https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/dates/index.php>.

Academic Integrity

Students are required to abide by all academic regulations set as set out in the University calendar, including standards of academic integrity. Violations of academic integrity (e.g. cheating and plagiarism) are considered serious and may result in significant penalties.

For more details: https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/policy/Sk_0xsM_V

Online Conduct

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting critical academic discourse while providing a respectful and supportive learning environment. All members of the university community have the right to this experience and the responsibility to help create such an environment. The University will not tolerate racism, sexualized violence, or any form of discrimination, bullying or harassment.

Please be advised that, by logging into UVic's learning systems or interacting with online resources, and course-related communication platforms, you are engaging in a university activity. All interactions within this environment are subject to the university expectations and policies. Any concerns about student conduct may be reviewed and responded to in accordance with the appropriate university policy.

To report concerns about online student conduct: onlineconduct@uvic.ca

Mental Health

A note to remind you to take care of yourself. Diminished mental health can interfere with optimal academic performance. Do your best to engage in self-care and maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress. All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone. The source of symptoms might be related to your course work; if so, please speak with me. However, problems with other parts of your life can also contribute to decreased academic performance. The UVic Student Wellness Centre provides cost-free and confidential mental health services to help you manage personal challenges that impact your emotional or academic well-being. For more details about the services/workshops/events/resources: <https://www.uvic.ca/student-wellness/index.php>



University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS)

The [UVSS](#) is a social justice based non-profit run by students, for students and is entirely separate from UVic. As an undergrad student, you are already a member! We work on issues affecting students such as affordability, public transit, sexualized violence, sustainability, student employment, and much more. We fund clubs and course unions, and have several advocacy groups. We also have a Food Bank and Free Store, a Peer Support Centre, and run your health and dental plan. We are here to support you, so please reach out to us at uvss.ca!

Additional Students Support

[-Learn Anywhere](#)

UVic's student portal with a full range of student and academic support services including:

- [Centre for Academic Communication](#)
- [Library](#)
- [Computer Help Desk](#)

[-Request for academic concession](#)

[-Use of pronouns in your classroom](#)

[-Emergency information](#)

