


HCOL185: Plants on the Move

FALL2017

Welcome to HCOL185 Plants on the move!

The information below describes the course instructor, grading policies, and reading list. When you send an email to any of us, please include "HCOL185" in the subject line so I will take special notice of the message.

	<p>Professor Jane Molofsky 341 Jeffords Hall Jane.Molofsky@uvm.edu</p> <p>Time: T/Th: 8:30-9:45 am Place: UHTN 16 Office Hours: 9:45- 10:30 T/Th or by appointment.</p>
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Text: There is a required text for the course and I also will be posting additional readings for the course.

Simberloff, Daniel. 2013. Invasive Species: What everyone needs to know. Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-0-19-992201-7

Course Summary:

The course covers topics in basic plant biology such as plant life history and growth, taxonomy and ecology but will use plant invasions as a tool to study basic plant biology. In addition, the topic of plant invasions will allow for an exploration of the socio-economic costs of invasive plants, the various agencies (local conservation groups, state agencies, National and International policy groups) that are involved in studying and trying to eradicate invasive plants. We cover several topics in the course that directly relate to the theme of sustainability including the role of current trade practices on the spread of invasive plants, how climate change may make the world more weedy and the role that human movement and immigration has had and will continue to have on invasive plant species. We will also study several of the worst invasive species in Vermont including Japanese knotweed, which is listed as one of the 100 of the world's worst weeds. The course will include topics on how human behavior can both promote and stop the spread of invasive species and also how cultural biases may affect what species are considered invasive.

Specific Learning Objectives

The student will be able to explain the causes and consequences of plant invasions and learn how human societies are contributing to their abundance.

Students will be able to identify the common invasive plant species in the Northeastern United States and the students will become familiar with a few of the plants on the 100 worst weeds list and what national and international agencies are doing to eradicate them.

Students will learn what local, state, national and international agencies are involved in regulating invasive plant species

Students will gain valuable skills in scientific presentations through producing a scientific talk.

Students will gain skills in persuasive writing through a class debate and writing an Op-Ed piece

Students will increase their writing skills through the weekly written assignments and a final paper.

GRADING & POLICIES:

Course Structure and grading policy: Total points 100

Major Assignments:

1. In class discussion (15 points): Students will read the assigned material before class and come prepared to write about and discuss it during the class period.

2. Written assignments (25 points)

Invasive Plant Identification: Students will be required to research invasive plants online and also visit natural areas to find and document with photos invasive plants growing in local areas.

Ecosystem Assessment: Students will assess the impact of a specific invasive species on a habitat

Horticultural Trip: students will visit local nurseries to find out where garden plants come from

3. World's worst weed: Each pair of students is responsible for Powerpoint presentation on one of the 100 worst weeds in the world and researching what makes it invasive and what governments are doing to control it. **(10 points)**

4. Debate Students will participate in a debate about what should be done for a specific invasive plant. **(10 points)**

5. Op-Ed. Each student will be responsible for writing an Opinion editorial that is suitable to be published in a local paper on one of the issues that we discuss in class. **(15 points)**

6. Final Project: your final project will be a 10-page research paper on the topic of your choosing on some area related to invasive plants and their effects on the world. You can choose a species or an issue but each paper must include two distinct areas of research. **(25 points)**

- Discussion points will be allocated according to the following criteria:

0	1	2	3	4	5
Does not comment	Comments very little	Comments but comments are not thoughtful	Good clear comments	helpful/positive comments	Goes above and beyond and shows superior understanding

Late Assignment Policy:

Assignments that come in after the due date but within the next 12 hours will be docked a half letter grade. Assignments that come in 24 hours late will be docked a full letter grade. Assignments that come in 48 hours after the due date will be docked two letter grades. No assignments will be accepted after 48 hours after the assigned due date.

Grading Scale. Your grade will be based on your total points at the end of the semester. We follow the traditional grading scale: A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F = < 60%. Plus and minus grades reflect scores close to these borders. If the scores of the class are too low overall, we adjust this scale downward. Any adjustments of scores would only help, not hurt, your final grade.

Grade Challenges. If you think there is a mistake in grading your assignment, please schedule a time to discuss it with me during office hours.

Email is usually the best way to contact me. I will make every effort to answer your emails promptly, but do not expect an immediate reply. On Monday-Friday, I will respond to emails within 12 hours. For emails received on Friday afternoon, I will try to respond no later than Sunday morning for your assignment which will be due on Monday evening.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Academic honesty is expected of all students. The University of Vermont has a very strict policy concerning academic honesty and plagiarism. Please see the statement on academic honesty <http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmppg/ppg/student/acadintegrity.pdf>

Plagiarism constitutes a violation of Academic Honesty and warrants failure on an assignment and/or failure in the course. Plagiarism of any sort - e.g., copying part or all of a fellow student's report, copying from original references, texts, or websites - will not be tolerated. **The group**

assignments will be done as a class or in small groups but we expect the final product to be your own work. The consequences of plagiarism or cheating range from a score of zero on the assignment or exam, to filing a complaint with the University's Coordinator for Academic Honesty which can result in expulsion from UVM.

How to succeed in the course

- **Keep up with the weekly schedule.** Print out a copy of the weekly assignments and keep track of the due dates.
- **Take notes on the readings:** Each assignment in class allows you to understand a different facet about plant invasions and the quizzes will reinforce your learning.

Assignment	Date	Points
World's worst weed	September 26 th /September 28 th	10
Debate	November 7 th	10
Op Ed	November 16 th	15
Final Paper*	December 12 th	25

*** Final Project Breakdown 25 points**

Each student will be responsible for writing a research paper on the topic of their choosing on the subject of invasive species. The topic will need to be approved and the final assignment is divided into a few parts.

1. Choosing an appropriate topic: due October 10th (2 points)

2. Annotated Bibliography due with at least 12 references: due November 28th (8 points)

3. Final Paper due: December 12th at 5pm (15 points)