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Office Hours:	Tuesdays 1pm – 2pm or by appointment
Class Format:	Online (Asynchronous)

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## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Plants have been used for a variety of purposes throughout the history of human existence. Whether it be healing the sick, providing sustenance, or achieving a higher state of consciousness, plants play an important role in how we communicate with the real and spiritual worlds. This course will focus on plants which have been stigmatized by the global west. More specifically, these plants exhibit mind altering properties and are often described as “drugs”. We will investigate the history of these sacred plants, tracing their lineage from their shamanistic roots, to their complex place in the western world.

Additionally, we will investigate other topics that have far reaching political and environmental impacts. We will explore the role that plants and food have on minority communities, and how food scarcity and inequality continues to impact the developed world.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

After successful completion of this course students should be able to:

- Understand origin and cultural significance of sacred plants
- Recognize role of traditional healing
- Develop opinions on complex political and environmental issues
- Describe importance of emerging organic food markets and food accessibility

## **TEXTBOOKS**

Recommended textbooks:

- Schultes, R. (2001). *Plants of the Gods. Inner Tradition.*
  - ISBN: 0892819790
- Winne, M. (2008). *Closing the Food Gap: Resetting the Table in the Land of Plenty.* Beacon Press.
  - ISBN: 0807047317

## EVALUATION GRADE DISTRIBUTION

### Syllabus Quiz (5 points – 5%)

- A syllabus quiz will be administered via canvas. A grade of 100% is needed to unlock the course

### Discussion Posts (5 points each – 15%)

- Twelve Discussion posts will be administered throughout the course via canvas. These will pertain to various topics covered each week—4 points for writing your own post (Due Mondays @ 11:59 PM) and 1 point for replying to at least one classmate (Due Tuesdays @ 11:59 PM).

### Assignments (10 points each – 35%)

- Twelve homework assignments will be given to help students further explore lecture materials. You have one week to complete each assignment.

### Mid-term exam (100 points – 20%)

- A close-book exam, covering all course contents by the day of the test, will be administered via canvas. The exam will comprise a mix of multiple choice, short answer, short essay responses.

### Final paper (100 points – 25%)

- Students will complete a research paper about a special course topic. Length is three pages and must have proper references. Topics must be approved by the instructor. Submit an outline with details about topic on canvas– 5 points, final report – 95 points.

## GRADING SCALE (&GPA EQUIVALENT)

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
93+	92- 90	89- 87	86- 83	82- 80	79- 77	76- 73	72- 70	69- 67	66- 63	62- 60	59-
4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0

Note: A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information see [UF's Grading Policy](#).

## COURSE POLICIES

- *Make-up Policy*: Only work missed due to excused reasons can be made up. The instructor will develop a make-up plan and schedule upon receipt of appropriate evidence. If experiencing truly extenuating circumstances resulting in longer absences, the instructor should be notified as soon as possible to develop a plan to make up missed work.

- *Late submissions*: Late submissions for discussion posts, midterm exam, and final report will not be accepted. Late submissions of assignments can be accepted, but 10% of the points will be deducted per day after the due date.
- *Grade disputes*: Should a student wish to dispute any grade received in this class (other than simple addition errors), the dispute must be in writing and be submitted to the instructor within a week of receiving the grade. The dispute should set out very clearly, the grade that the student believes the assignment should have received as well as why they believe they should have received such a grade.
- *Contacting the instructor*: Students needing to contact the course instructor should do so using Canvas' messaging platform.
- *Required Technology*: Students need to have access to a personal computer or laptop with a working webcam and microphone in order to access all features of the course Canvas site, and to participate in online office hours and optional live Q&A sessions. Broadband internet access is required. Proctoring services are provided by Honorlock. Students are expected to review the Honorlock system requirements and use their compatibility tool before the end of the drop/add period by visiting <https://honorlock.com/support/> and scrolling down to the Simple Single-Click Test section of that page. The student guide to testing with Honorlock can be accessed via this [link](#).

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

- *Academic honesty*: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." [The Honor Code](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.
- *Accommodations for students with disabilities*: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Contact the [Disability Resources Center](#) for information about available resources for students with disabilities.

- *Counseling and mental health resources:* Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help should contact the on-campus [Counseling and Wellness Center](#) (352-392-1575)
- *Online course evaluation process:* Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.
- *Canvas help:* If you encounter any unexpected behavior (error messages, inability to login, etc.,) take a screen shot of the problem. This is important so that your instructor knows your problem is legitimate, and to assist the UF Computing Help Desk in helping you fix the problem. If you encounter problems that prevent you from taking the exam, immediately call the UF Computing Help Desk at 352 – 392 – 4357.

## **COVID19 STATEMENT**

- The nature of these times are unpredictable. As such, it is understandable that situations may arise during the semester that may create hardship. If you become impacted by the ongoing pandemic, please contact the course instructor to provide documentation and discuss a fair course of action.

## **Campus Helping Resources**

- U Matter, We Care. (352) 292-2273. UF's umbrella program for UF's caring culture. Provides students in distress with support and coordination of the wide variety of appropriate resources. <http://umatter.ufl.edu>
- University Counseling Center & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Rd., (352) 392-1575. Personal and career counseling, as well as therapy for anxiety, stress and mental health issues. <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>
- Dean of Students Office, 202 Peabody Hall, (352) 392-1261. Among other services, the DSO assists students who are experiencing situations that compromises their ability to attend classes. This includes family emergencies and medical issues (including mental health crises). <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/care>

- Teaching Center, Broward Hall, (352) 392-2010 or (352) 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>
- Writing Studio, 2215 Turlington Hall, (352) 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-center/>.
- Career Connections Center, First Floor JWRU, (352) 392-1601, <https://career.ufl.edu/>.
- Field and Fork Pantry. Food and toiletries for students experiencing food insecurity. <https://pantry.fieldandfork.ufl.edu/>.
- UF Help Desk. (352) 392-4357. Technical support for computer issues and UF web services. <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>
- University Police Department, (352) 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>
- Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with using the libraries or finding resources.

## **SUGGESTED COURSE SCHEDULE**

Students should note that there may be changes to the class schedule.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Module</u>
1	01/11/22 - 01/16/22	Course and syllabus overview
2	01/17/22 - 01/23/22	Plants of the Gods: Introduction
3	01/24/22 - 01/30/22	The Chemistry of Sacred Plants
4	01/31/22 - 02/06/22	DMT/Ayahuasca
5	02/07/22 - 02/13/22	Cannabis: Part 1
6	02/14/22 - 02/20/22	Cannabis: Part 2
7	02/21/22 - 02/27/22	Peyote & Psychedelic Mushrooms
8	02/28/22 - 03/06/22	Mid-term exam
9	03/07/22 - 03/13/22	Organic Foods and GMOs
10	03/14/22 - 03/20/22	Greenwashing
11	03/21/22 - 03/27/22	Race, Class, and Food Insecurity
12	03/28/22 - 04/03/22	Food Accessibility: A Geographic Approach

<u>Week</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Module</u>
13	04/04/22 - 04/10/22	Holiday Week: No Lecture
14	04/11/22 - 04/17/22	Paper Prep: No Lecture
15	04/18/22 - 04/25/22	Final Paper Due

### **IMPORTANT TIMES/DATES TO REMEMBER**

- Assignments and Discussion posts due Mondays at 11:59 PM, Discussion Post replies due Tuesdays at 11:59PM
- Midterm exam: 03/06/2022 by 11:59 PM
- Final project report: submitted by 04/25/22 by 11:59 PM