

Diseases of Forest and Shade Trees - Syllabus for Spring 2024

Instructor: Professor Robert Blanchette

Class web page: <http://treediseases.cfans.umn.edu/>

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Course Description:

This course provides an overview of tree diseases in urban and forested areas. It covers diseases that have had a significant impact on society such as Dutch Elm disease; oak wilt, chestnut blight, white pine blister rust, sudden oak death and many others. It also provides an overview of important cankers, leaf diseases, wilts, rusts, root rots and other tree problems. Laboratory sessions enable students to get hands-on experience identifying disease agents, examining symptoms and learning appropriate control procedures. Emphasis will also be placed on ecological processes, biological and cultural control, and host-parasite interactions. This course should be of value to anyone interested in biological sciences, natural resources or ecology. It is a must for individuals that will have a career in natural resources but should also be useful to those interested in maintaining healthy trees at home, in urban areas or woodlands. Alumni of the University working with trees or woody ornamentals indicate this is one of the most important courses you can take as a student.

Class Information:

There is a class Canvas site that should be available on Canvas to all enrolled students. There is also class web page (<http://treediseases.cfans.umn.edu/>) providing information for the class. See the lecture and laboratory pages at this web site for class reading materials. **Each lecture topic has links to web pages that provide materials that should be read before attending the lectures and laboratory sessions.** After each laboratory session, information and photographs of laboratory materials will be added to the laboratory web pages for your review. Additional links are also listed for each topic to provide background information on each disease situation, photographs of diseases in the field and comprehensive reviews for those that want more information. Students can take this class as PLPA 3003 for undergraduate students and PLPA 5003 for graduate students.

Exams and Grades

3 Lecture exams and 3 laboratory exams. These exams will = 70% of the grade for the class. Exam dates are posted on Canvas and the class web site. No make up exams are given except for verified illness, family emergencies other justified reasons (e.g. University sponsored event or some uncontrollable crisis). Documentation for the absence is needed and required by University policy.

Assignments and projects given throughout the semester = 30% of the grade.

Note: all assignments are due on the date assigned. Late assignments receive reduced points.

Laboratory Sessions:

These “hands on” sessions are important for learning about tree diseases. Take time to view all materials carefully and draw and label examples as completely as possible in notebooks. Know lab material before leaving the lab.

Text:

There is no textbook required for the class. All readings will be on line. If you would like to purchase a supplemental text, one that is highly recommended as a future resource book is:

Diseases of Trees and Shrubs. 2nd Edition by W. Sinclair and H. Lyon. Cornell University Press. Make sure you get the 2nd edition – there are copies of the 1st edition that are inexpensive still around but this is an older edition and outdated.

Class Reading Materials:

Links to reading materials required for class can be found on the class web site.

Information listed for each lecture and lab should be read **before the class meets**.

Grading Criteria and Information on University policies:

Grades will be on an A to F system or S-N. Any changes in the grading base from the A-F or S-N system must be done in the first two weeks of class. All students will be expected to do all work assigned in the course, or its equivalent as determined by the instructor. More information on grading can be found at the UMN Grading Policy web site. For students taking the class for graduate credit as PLPA 5003, additional questions will be asked on the lecture and laboratory exams and additional readings and assignments will be given over the semester.

University general policy information:

Scholastic misconduct is not tolerated at the University of Minnesota. Scholastic misconduct is broadly defined as "any act that violates the right of another student in academic work or that involves misrepresentation of your own work. Scholastic dishonesty includes, (but is not necessarily limited to): cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, which means misrepresenting as your own work any part of work done by another; submitting the same paper, or substantially similar papers, to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of all instructors concerned; depriving another student of necessary course materials; or interfering with another student's work." When writing assignments it is important not to cut and paste materials that are not your own work. For more detailed information see the University of Minnesota's Student Conduct Code at:

http://www1.umn.edu/regents/policies/academic/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf

Students are not permitted to submit extra work in an attempt to raise his or her grade since such opportunities are not afforded to all students.

The University of Minnesota is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. Disability Resource Center (DRC) is the campus office that collaborates with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations.

- If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g., mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical), please contact the DRC at 612-626-1333 to arrange a confidential discussion regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations.
- If you are registered with DRC and have a current letter requesting reasonable accommodations, we encourage you to contact your instructor early in the semester to review how the accommodations will be applied in the course.

Additional information is available on the DRC website: <https://diversity.umn.edu/disability/>

Students with disabilities that affect their ability to participate fully in class or to meet all course requirements are encouraged to bring this to the attention of the instructor so that appropriate accommodations can be arranged. Further information, if needed, can be obtained from Disabilities Services at <http://ds.umn.edu/>.

Student Mental Health and Stress Management: As a student, you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. University of Minnesota services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available to students at <http://www.mentalhealth.umn.edu/>.

University policy prohibits sexual harassment as defined in the policy statement, available at the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action. Questions or concerns about sexual harassment should be directed to the Student Conflict Resolution Center, located in 419 Morrill Hall.

For more information on all University policies see the University Policy Library web site at: <https://policy.umn.edu/twin-cities>

COVID

Stay at home if you experience any signs of illness or have a positive COVID-19 test result, and consult with your healthcare provider about an appropriate course of action. Absences related to illness, including COVID-19 symptoms, for yourself or your dependents, are excused absences and I will work with you to find the best course of action for missed work and course content. I will follow these same protocols and will let you know if the delivery of this course has to be temporarily changed as the result of my own circumstances.

See below for additional details:

The best defenses against contracting COVID-19 and other illnesses are vaccination, masking, and taking measures to isolate when symptomatic or COVID-19 positive.