

Biology 4410/5410 - Field Biology of Plants - Fall 2007

Instructor: Dr. David E. Lemke  
Office: SUPP 334 Office Hours: MWF 11:00–12:00, TuTh 8:00–9:00 or by appt.  
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Lecture Schedule

Aug 22 Introduction  
24 Plant Communities  
27 Natural Regions of Texas  
31 Natural Regions (cont'd)

Sep 07 Climate & Physiography  
10 Introduction to Geology  
12 Geologic History of Texas  
14 Introduction to Soils  
17 Soil Classification

21 EXAM I

24 Grasslands  
28 Grasslands (cont'd)

Oct01 High Plains  
05 Rolling Plains  
08 Edwards Plateau  
12 Edwards Plateau (cont'd)  
15 Vegetation Change  
19 Llano Uplift  
22 Blackland Prairie Region  
26 Blackland Prairies (cont'd)

29 EXAM II

Nov 02 Deciduous Forests  
05 Piney Woods  
12 Oak Woods and Prairies  
14 Gulf Prairies & Marshes  
16 Coastal Sand Plain  
19 South Texas Brush Country  
26 Desert Vegetation  
30 Trans-Pecos

Dec 03 Trans-Pecos (cont'd)

05 EXAM III (11:00–1:30)

Grading: Lecture Exams (3) 50%  
Plant ID Exams (6) 50%

Important Dates: Oct 23 Auto "W" deadline  
Nov 19 Final drop date

Texts: Ajilvsqi, G. 1984. Wildflowers of Texas. Shearer Publishing, Fredericksburg, Texas.  
Gould, F. W. 1978. Common Texas grasses. Texas A&M University Press, College Station.  
Wrede, J. 2005. Trees, shrubs and vines of the Texas Hill Country. Texas A&M University Press, College Station.



## Field Trip Guidelines and Information

1. Bio 4410/5410 field trips are scheduled for most Wednesday afternoons during the semester. We will try to return to campus by 6:15 at the latest, the scheduled ending time for the lab period, for all but one of the field trips. The trip to Enchanted Rock on October 17th will require additional travelling time and we will probably not return until 7:30 pm or later. In addition, there will be an optional field trip to Big Bend National Park, November 8th–11th to examine desert and mountain communities (details later).
2. Only students registered for Bio 4410/5410 are permitted on field trips. No friends, spouses, children, or pets will be allowed to accompany us.
3. Alcoholic beverages and smoking are prohibited on field trips.
4. All travel to and from the field trip site must be in vehicles provided by the University. No personal vehicles may be taken—there will be no exceptions to this rule.
5. Clothing: Long pants are recommended as protection against thorny plants and poison ivy. Wear sensible footwear; either sneakers or lightweight hiking boots are appropriate, sandals, etc., are not. We may hike several miles in an afternoon and do a small amount of rock climbing or scrambling through brush, so your footwear should be broken in and comfortable.
6. For the first couple of weeks, at least, the sun will be bright and the weather hot. You should use sunscreen with a high SPF value and wear a hat if you are sensitive to the sun.
7. An ice chest will be taken along in each van if you want to bring juice, soda, etc., for the end of the trip. You should also bring along a bottle of fresh water to take with you while hiking.
8. A small notebook and pencil will be indispensable for taking notes in the field. Additional items that you may find useful include a roll of tape, one or more of your textbooks, extra pencils, pruning shears or a pocket knife, hand lens, etc.
9. Things to look out for:
  - Snakes have more sense than we do; they are not likely to be out in the heat of the day when we will be tramping around. Nonetheless, use your common sense. Watch where you step and don't put hands or feet into cracks or crevices or under logs where you cannot see.
  - Ticks are obnoxious little arachnids, a small minority of which carry Rocky Mountain spotted fever or Lyme disease. You can try to foil them by stuffing your pants legs into your socks, or putting insect repellent or sulfur on your legs, but it won't work. It's best to look for them as soon as you get home after a trip and remove any that you find. Fortunately, they must be attached for at least 24 hours to transmit either of the above-mentioned diseases, giving you plenty of time to find them first.
  - Chiggers are even more insidious than ticks—you don't notice them until it's too late and the itchy bites have appeared. I recommend filling a spray bottle with rubbing alcohol, spraying your skin with it after coming in from the outdoors, then taking a shower and scrubbing arms and legs with a washcloth and soap.
  - Poison Ivy. Learn to recognize *Toxicodendron radicans* (poison ivy) and avoid it if you are allergic to it. You will be surprised at the variety of growth forms this plant can assume.
  - Fire ants are everywhere these days. Watch where you put your feet when hiking and especially when stopping.

## Field Trip and Lab Quiz (\*) Schedule

Aug 29	Pollard Refuge	Oct 17	Enchanted Rock
Sep 05	Pedernales Falls	24	San Marcos River *
12	Aquarena Center*	31	Bastrop/Buescher State Park
19	Blanco River	Nov 07	Aquarena Wetlands*
26	New Braunfels*	14	Campus Plants
Oct 03	Palmetto State Park/City Market	Nov 28	Lab final*

