

LA 326 - Fall 2023

# FALL PLANTS

CRN 12840 - Monday Wednesday 11:00am-12:50pm in 278 Lawrence Hall,  
plant walks beginning outside main/south entrance to Lawrence Hall

Instructor: **Kelly Densmore**, [kellyd@uoregon.edu](mailto:kellyd@uoregon.edu)



*“When I am among the trees, especially the Willows and the Honey Locust, equally the Beech, the Oaks and the Pines, they give off such hints of gladness. I would almost say that they save me, daily.”*

- *Mary Oliver*

**Class description** - Fall Plants is a plant identification course in the Landscape Architecture department. We will spend most classes walking around campus, learning to identify plants by botanical and common name. Emphasis will be on native plant communities, as well as ornamental shrubs, groundcovers, perennials, some coniferous trees, and deciduous trees with a focus on fall color. Field journaling will be a main component of the course, helping students to track and record fall color changes, learn botanical terminology used to describe a leaf and observe the unique details of tree seeds to differentiate one species from another.

The format of the course will include plant walks, fieldtrips, classroom lectures and workshops, plant identification tests, journal assignments and a final mapping project.

**Final Project** -For the final project students will work in groups to create a map of a natural area of their choosing, learning to graphically represent plant communities they observe, identify and record.



**Landscape Architecture Department**  
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**Field Trips** will give students the opportunity to read the landscape and explore some of the archetypal ecosystems of the Willamette Valley. Students will have the chance to practice plant identification and postulate underlying conditions specifically focusing on soils, hydrology, and topography.

**Note:** Field trips subject to change. Check your email prior to departing for meeting location. Students are responsible for getting to location; no van transportation will be provided.

**Learning outcome** - By the end of the term, students should feel comfortable identifying a significant amount of the plant life observed in the Willamette Valley, as we will cover between 75-100 plants, trees, and shrubs. Their identification toolbox will include observing a plants leaf form, seed development, fall color, winter bud and habitat. They will also gain a keen sense in understanding landscapes as they become familiar with typical native plant communities and recognize basic ecological relationships.

**Required Books** - for use during class and to complete assignments:

The Plants Reader, compiled by Ann Bettman, Arica Duhrkoop-Galas and Kelly Densmore

Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast, Pojar and Mackinnon

### **Optional Books**

Field Guide to Trees of North America, Kershner for NWF

Northwest Trees, Arno and Hammerly

The Sibley Guide to Trees, David Allen Sibley

### **Recommended supplies**

'Prismacolor' colored pencils, 'Rite in the Rain' all-weather writing paper, 5x/10x hand lens, approximately 8.5x11" sketchbook.

All of these items may be purchased at the bookstore.



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