



EAST TEXAS A&M

PIS 460 Plant Taxonomy Spring 2026

Instructor: Derald Harp, Ph.D., Professor - Horticulture

Office Location: AgIT 249 and PSC 101

Office Hours: @PSC 101 MW 9 - 11 am

@AgIT 143 TR 9:30 – 10:30 am

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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s) Required: Shiners & Mahlers Illustrated Flora of North Central Texas.
<http://www.brit.org/brit-press/nctexasflora/online>

Course Description:

This class is a systematic overview of the plant kingdom focusing on classification and identification of unknown specimens.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

1. Understand plant morphological terminology and use it accurately in the description and identification of plant species.
2. Identify and provide family characteristics for at least 25 flowering and non-flowering plant families in northeast Texas
3. Identify and/or verify unknown species using dichotomous keys.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Exams: Four 200 point exams, one 200 point final exam

Student Learning Outcomes 1, 2 and 3

Assessment: Vocabulary, Multiple Choice, True/False, and Short Answer Exam

Class Project: Plant Collection (see separate handout)

Student Learning Outcomes: 1 & 2

Assessment: Graded according to the collection rubric

Grading

Exams	800 points
Collection	300 points
Final Exam	200 points

A	>1170
B	1040 – 1169
C	910 – 1039
D	780 – 909
F	<780

There will be no extra credit work available.

ATTENDANCE

This class is being held in a room with a COVID capacity of 17. Because enrollment exceeds this, lecture will be divided in half, with students attending lecture in person on the day they attend lab. Therefore, those in the Tuesday lab will attend lecture in person on Tuesday morning, and those in the Thursday lab will attend lecture in person on Thursday morning. On days not attending in person, students will be expected to join the class via Zoom.

Students joining class via Zoom will be expected to have their video on, but microphone muted, except to ask a question or respond to an in-class question.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

You may bring drinks to class. Please finish any meals before class begins. The use of tobacco products during class time is strictly prohibited.

Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. Copying of others' work, use of disallowed material on exams, plagiarism in assignments or cheating in any other form as defined by the instructor will

result in a grade of zero for that assignment. Multiple infractions will result in a grade of 'F' for the course and possible expulsion.

University Specific Procedures:

The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race,

color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

“Campus Carry”

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

University Pandemic Response

A&M-Commerce requires the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories. Exceptions may be made by faculty where warranted. Faculty have management over their classrooms. Students not using face-coverings can be required to leave class. Repetitive refusal to comply can be reported to the Office of Students’ Rights and Responsibilities as a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Exam	Date	Material Covered
Exam 1	February 5, 2026	- Introduction to Taxonomy and Systematics - Classification Systems and Botanical Terminology - Vegetative Morphology (Textbook glossary) - Reproductive Morphology (Textbook glossary)
Exam 2	March 5, 2026	- Pteridophytes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dryopteridaceae• Aspleniaceae

- Marsiliaceae
- Equisetaceae
- Gymnosperms
 - Cupressaceae
 - Pinaceae
- Angiosperms
 - Nymphaeaceae
- Magnoliids
 - Magnoliaceae
 - Lauraceae
- Monocots
 - Alismataceae
 - Araceae
 - Liliales
 - Liliaceae
 - Including Alliaceae and Amaryllidaceae
 - Smilacaceae

Exam 3

April 2, 2026

- Monocots
 - Asparagales
 - Agavaceae
 - Iridaceae
 - Orchidaceae
 - Commelinidae
 - Commelinaceae
 - Cyperaceae
 - Typhaceae
 - Poaceae
- Eudicots
 - Ranunculaceae
 - Papaveraceae
- Core Eudicots
 - Caryophyllales
 - Cactaceae
 - Caryophyllaceae
 - Amaranthaceae
- Rosids
 - Fabidae
 - Fagaceae
 - Juglandaceae

- Rosaceae
- Fabaceae

Plant Collection Due
Exam 4

April 23, 2026
April 28, 2026

- Malvidae
 - Onagraceae
 - Brassicaceae

- Asterids

- Solanales
 - Solanaceae
 - Convolvulaceae
- Lamiales
 - Acanthaceae
 - Lamiaceae
 - Verbenaceae
- Apiales
 - Apiaceae
- Asterales
 - Campanulaceae
 - Asteraceae

Final

May 2, 2026
10:30 – 12:30 am

Comprehensive