

SEMESTER II
GEH1050 PLANTS AND SOCIETY

Prerequisite: None

Preclusions: None

Workload: 26 lecture hours + 24 tutorial hours (demonstrations/assignments)

How are human beings and plants interdependent? How did plants shape the planet Earth to one that is suitable for life as we know it? Such topics will be examined to deepen our appreciation of the roles played by plants in the progress of civilizations and cultures from both historic perspective and continuing impact on society. The discussion topics, written and oral presentations will include plants as sources of food, clothing, shelter, medicine. There will be talks by guests from local industry, along with team projects by students to enrich their awareness of the deep coexistence of plants and society.

S/N	Topics	Lecture hours
1	How did plants shape the planet Earth? Overview of plants and their diversity	4 (Kumar)
2	Origins of agriculture and cereals as food	2 (Kumar)
3	Spices and war	2 (Kumar)
4	Vegetables and fruits	2 (Kumar)
5	Perfumes, tannins and dyes derived from plants	4 (Kumar)
6	Stimulating beverages	3 (Loh)
7	Plants and medicine	3 (Loh)
8	Orchids and human society	2 (Loh)
9	Plant improvement	4 (Loh)
Total Lectures: 26 h		
Tutorials + Assignments: 24h		
Total hours:		50 h

TEXT BOOK (Recommended reference books):

Simpson BB and Ogorzaly MC. Economic Botany: Plants in our World. 4th edition. McGraw-Hill, NY.
Levetin E and McMahon K. Plants and Society. 6th edition. McGraw-Hill, NY.

MODE OF ASSESSMENT:

CA assignments: 60%

Final examination: 40%

MODULE CO-ORDINATOR:

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