

2022

O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs

E 400/E 555 Topics in Environmental Studies/Science

Plants and Plant Communities

This is an intensive two-week course in which students will learn to identify plants from the wide variety of plant communities found in south-central Indiana. The course will also examine relationships among plants, microbes, and animals that bind plant communities together and distinguish them from each other. Students will study plants of all sorts, from tiny mosses to old-growth trees. Although particulars may vary, skills learned in this course will be generally applicable to research, education, and environmental science practice in most regions of the world.

The course will be a mix of lecture, laboratory, and field studies. Students should be prepared each day to sit and stand indoors and to walk distances up to three miles per day outdoors on surfaces ranging from concrete sidewalks to trackless wildlands. They should also be prepared for the hazards and challenges as well as the joys inherent to summer field work in the Midwest.

The class will meet from 10 a.m. to around noon and from about 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Exact timing and duration of the one-hour noon break may vary somewhat depending on travel considerations. Student grades will be based on five 20-point quizzes and one 100-point final examination. Students enrolled in the graduate section will receive an additional assignment to be completed prior to the final exam.

Instructor: Dr. Mark Sheehan