Systematic Botany
BIOL 3534-201
Spring 2020
Syllabus Addendum

Welcome Back! I hope you had a safe and COVID-19-free spring break.

About the Virus and its associated disease
Since everything about the rest of this course will be influenced by the virus (and since, as biologists, you should be able to inform your friends and family of facts over hearsay) let's start with a brief tutorial about nomenclature:

1) The virus has a name: **SARS-CoV-2**
    a. Short for: severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2.
    b. This name was assigned by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV – comprising experts on virus nomenclature and, specifically, nomenclature of the Coronaviridae – the family to which this virus belongs). https://talk.ictvonline.org/

2) The disease that it causes also has a name: **COVID-19**.
    a. Short for: coronavirus infectious disease first identified in 2019
    b. This name was assigned by the WHO (World Health Organization – comprising experts in the field of epidemiology, among many other health-related fields). https://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/notes/2015/naming-new-diseases/en/

About the second half of Systematic Botany, Spring 2020
First of all, understand that this is not an on-line course (which would take months to set up properly) but rather a face-to-face course that is forced by the COVID-19 pandemic to adapt to new public health standards. Those of you who are fond of on-line courses will find that this course will not feature some of your favorite bells-and-whistles. Those of you who prefer face-to-face courses will find that the structure of the course will remain somewhat familiar. Since everything we do together will be from a safe distance, this will take some getting used to for all of us.

1) Lecture
    a. Format
    I will not be making audio or video recordings of lecture content. Instead, I will continue to post the PowerPoints that cover the remaining topics on the original syllabus. I will edit PowerPoints, as appropriate with **text slides** on which I emphasize the most important takeaways from the previous 1-or-more **Figure-heavy** slides. To give you a chance to get used to the format, I've posted all of 6-Green Plant Phylogeny with embedded text slides. Since you've already taken in-class notes on (some of) this PowerPoint, you can see how the new format will be applied before you launch into new topics. Find PowerPoints on the Lecture

Homepage => Course => Course Resources => PowerPoints => COVID-19 Editions.

b. Schedule
Since the PowerPoints will be posted and available to you as soon as they are produced, you will not need to work through them on a particular schedule (e.g. MW 8:00-8:50). However, some of you already know that the best way *for you* to keep up will be to keep your current class schedule. Although you can work through the PowerPoints any time you want to, I plan to be close to a computer and available to answer questions during our regularly scheduled class times. Direct e-mails always receive most rapid replies, but I will log on to D2L periodically to see if any e-mails have become stranded there. Of course, if you have a question about PowerPoints or any other topic, you can e-mail any time. I will reply as soon as I see your question. Remember – especially across these vast distances – I can't read your mind. If you have a question or need clarification, please don't hesitate to ask.

c. Exams
Exams will occur as scheduled, so Exam 2 will be on Wednesday, May 6 from 8:00-10:00 A.M. as scheduled. The format will be as on the midterm but administered through the D2L test tool. It will require Respondus LockDown Browser. If you have not downloaded and installed this app previously, it would be wise to do so ahead of Exam 2 so that you can focus on answering questions and not having to deal with (possible) IT problems.

Content (subject to the vagaries of life in the modern era).
The final exam will cover the balance of Green Plant Phylogeny (from slide #87 on) plus Angiosperm Family Characters (Magnoliids, Monocots, SuperRosids and SuperAsterids) plus Taxonomic History.

d. On-line assignments
On-line assignments and deadlines will remain the same. Continue to complete and submit as you have in the past. For Metric assignments, either scan or photograph your final product and e-mail it to me.

2) Lab
The Sight ID Midterm will proceed as scheduled on Thursday, March 26. You will log on to the D2L quiz with Respondus LockDown Browser and name 21 plants, each presented as a collection of images on a single screen. To minimize opportunities to indulge your temptations, the quiz will be tightly time-limited. I would normally limit time per plant to 1 minute. Since I can't do that with D2L, I will limit the whole exam to 31.5 minutes for the 21 plants – an average of 1 ½ minutes per plant. The exam time limit will require that you not get bogged down for too long on any single plant. You will have the ability

to scroll back through previous questions, but be careful with this feature – it can eat up a lot of time quickly. Inclusion of 21 plants on the exam was a mistake, but I kept the 21st plant as extra credit – so your score for 21 plants will be divided by the total possible score for 20 plants.

The rest of our lab sessions were scheduled to be key quizzes and introduction of new plants to the sight ID list. This will be highly experimental, but I plan to continue collecting plants for both purposes. I'll photograph them in the field and in the lab with as much macro detail as possible. For weekly key quizzes, I'll include a list of "clues" including details you may not be able to glean from the photos. In addition to a name for each plant, I'll require a record of your path through the keys (so, p. 126 1=>8=>9=>10…Group T 1=> 2=>…etc.).

Lab exercises will be completed during our regularly scheduled lab time (R 2:00-6:00).

Submission of the collection will be a challenge. I will provide more information about this after we get the routine on-line features up and running.