

Seedy Dealings: The Rise of Plants
Syllabus
Summer HSSP 2020

Instructors

Roopsha Bandopadhyay (S13999-teachers@esp.mit.edu)

Course Objectives

The intention of this course is for students to gain an appreciation and understanding of the kingdom Plantae. Students will learn about basic plant biology, history, classification, and diversity. Students will learn how different plants are interconnected with each other and how they relate to our lives at large.

Materials

Course notes, documents, and assignments will be posted here:
https://esp.mit.edu/learn/HSSP/2020_Summer/class_docs/13999

Lectures

Lectures will be held each Saturday from July 11 to August 15 via Zoom. Classes run from 3:00pm – 4:00 pm EST. Although lectures cannot be recorded, associated notes and slides will be posted before lecture.

Weekly Schedule

A brief overview of what we will cover during the course:

- Week 1 – Introduction; How do Plants Grow?
- Week 2 – Plant Types and Features
- Week 3 – Plant Evolution and Origins
- Week 4 – Plants in their Environment
- Week 5 – Plants in the Present
- Week 6 – Plant Hunt

Grades and Assignments

No assignments or coursework are graded but are strongly encouraged. Assignments in this class include in-class activities and a virtual plant hunt.

In-Class Activities

Students will participate in written and verbal activities in class in groups to reinforce lecture topics.

Virtual Plant Hunt

Students will participate in a virtual plant hunt to simulate exploration in local New England wilderness areas. Using the knowledge learned in the course, students will identify different species of plants and be able to look at specimens closely in their “natural” environment, showing how they interact with their surroundings.