

Syllabus Fall 2023

Flowers – Origin, History, Meaning, Use

Course Description

Exploration of a variety of flower species in the following areas.

Origins – where was native environment of the plant, geographically.

History – how and by whom was the plant brought east or west, was there an association with a particular culture, event, person, etc.

Meaning – derivation of the name. Myths related to the flower and/or symbolic significance of the bloom as expressed in different periods and cultures.

Use - practical, magical, commercial, culinary, religious, medicinal traditions.

Format

Each class will cover several species, presented in PowerPoint illustrations, such as photos, diagrams or artistic renditions. Lecturer will discuss the above points for each species.

Comments and discussion will be encouraged. Individual class subjects are listed below.

Objectives

To understand the wide spread and adaptation of plant species around the globe.

To learn about some individuals who were explorers, purveyors or just plain enthusiasts.

To gain knowledge of different cultural origin myths, and symbolic interpretations of the same flower.

To appreciate the many uses that different historical periods and cultures adopted for the plants.

To enjoy a bounty of (hopefully) entertaining and delightful graphics while achieving the above.

Class 1. Early Spring

Class 2. Late Spring/Early Summer

Class 3. Summer

Class 4. Late Summer

Class 5. Fall