

COURSE CODE	AGRI 223
COURSE TITLE	PLANT TAXONOMY
PROGRAM	BSc in GENERAL AGRICULTURE
CREDIT HOURS	3 Hrs
Course Description	Introduction to the principles of plant taxonomy and their application to the vascular plants of Somaliland and adjacent regions. The course will emphasize hands-on experience in identification and documentation and discussion of environmental adaptations exhibited by Somaliland's plants.
Course Objectives	<p>After completion of the course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss different approaches to the classification of vascular plants, emphasizing those in use today. • Explain the value of plant taxonomy to different disciplines, the primary principles of plant nomenclature, and why a plant's scientific name may change. • Describe vascular plants using core technical terms. • Use a technical identification key to identify plants that grow in Somaliland. • Understand the relationship among the following concepts: recognition, identification, classification, descriptions, nomenclature, and documentation. • Recognize and describe the identifying features of 20 of Somaliland's vascular plant families. • Describe the morphology, distribution, habitat, and ecology of 15 species of agricultural importance in Somaliland. • Explain what is meant by biodiversity data sharing and the importance of Darwin Core fields and GBIF to this activity. • Prepare high-quality, well-documented herbarium specimens using OpenHerbarium.
Prerequisites	BOTANY
Delivery Time	THIRD YEAR / SEM. I
Status of the course	DEGREE REQUIREMENT
Delivery methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations • Assignments • Discussions • Laboratory practicals
Attendance Requirement	75% and above and return of loaned equipment (see below) to sit the final examination.
Equipment needed	<p>Written resources required will be available, for free, online. Many will be downloadable.</p> <p>The Biodiversity Museum will loan each student a set of equipment for use during the semester. It must be available for each lab session, but students may borrow it in order to work on their assignments at home. It must be returned, intact and in good condition, the week before final examination.</p>

	Students will be required to provide is a field notebook. This can be a standard exercise book. It will have to be submitted as part of your collection grade. Instructions on its use will be given in the second week.
Evaluation Scheme	Collection 30% Lab practicals and written assignments 20% First exam (Apr 2) 5% Second exam (May 14) 15% Final exam (June 11) 30% Note: All exams will include a practical component.
Total Hours	120 hours, 45 in class, 75 outside of class