

Class 1: The Ancient Mediterranean

- 1) Why is there a fig in my garden?
 - a. On the practical origins of our oldest garden plants, starting with food
- 2) What do you call that? A very brief primer on plant names
- 3) Introduction: Structure and subjects of class
 - a. Structure: Chronological and geographical
 - b. Subjects:
 - i. Socioeconomic, political and scientific history behind plants in our gardens
 - ii. Development of our understanding of plants
 - iii. Stories of exploration and discovery
 - iv. Meaning we ascribe to plants: myth, lore, art
- 4) The many uses of plants and the paths to our gardens
- 5) Brief observations on the origin of gardens
- 6) A sampling of ancient plants in our gardens
- 7) Do plants have souls? The beginnings of botany
 - a. Theophrastus
 - b. Pliny
 - c. Dioscorides
- 8) More ancient plants

Suggested Reading:

- Noel Kingsbury, *Garden Flora: The Natural and Cultural History of the Plants in Your Garden*, Timber Press (2016)
- Anna Pavord, *The Naming of Names: The Search for Order in the World of Plants*, Bloomsbury (2005)
- Duane Isely, *One Hundred and One Botanists*, Iowa State University Press (1994)
- Gavin Hardy and Laurence Totelin, *Ancient Botany*, Routledge (2015)
- Ippolito Pizzetti and Henry Cocker, *Flowers: A Guide for Your Garden*, Harry N. Abrams, Inc. (1975)