

## Great Plants in History

A study of various plants and their surprising impact on history

<b>Course #</b>	21FGPH
<b>Format:</b>	Seminar
<b>Moderator:</b>	Jane McMurrich
<b>Date and Time:</b>	Wednesday, 1:30-3:30 PM 10 weeks, starting 9/29/2021
<b>Format:</b>	Online
<b>Maximum number of participants:</b>	16
<b>Auditors accepted:</b>	Yes, up to 2

**Purpose:** The purpose of this seminar is to appreciate (a) how plants throughout history have affected major world events, and (b) how the use of various plants has evolved over time.

**Description:** Participants will select a plant which has had historical ramifications, for example spices, the desire for which encouraged exploration and trade; or opium, with a medicinal use, an opportunity for misuse, and the wars it sparked in Asia. Alternatively, participants can choose a plant whose use has evolved over the centuries, for example the willow tree, used in the manufacture of aspirin, cricket balls, and coffins.

**Role of participants:** Each participant will be expected to make a presentation on the chosen topic, and to participate in the ensuing discussion.

**Resources:** *Fifty Plants that Changed the Course of History* by Bill Laws is a recommended, though not required reading.

**About the Moderator:** The moderator is a retired high school biology teacher, an amateur gardener and enthusiastic cook.