

Course Syllabus
AG 595 – Research Literature & Techniques
Summer II 2014
WEB-BASED

Instructor: Dr. Jackie Wahrmond, Assistant Professor of Animal Science
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Office hours: By appointment

COURSE INFORMATION

Text: None. All necessary materials will be provided through eCollege.

Course Description: (From the University Catalog) A careful study of the latest research literature and techniques available in different fields of agriculture. A research paper will be required according to the interests of the individual student.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the importance of ethical conduct in research
- Read and interpret:
 - Scientific journal articles
 - Conference proceedings papers
 - Research abstracts
 - Fact Sheets
 - Other scientific publications as assigned
- Properly cite references
- Describe techniques used to design and conduct research experiments
 - Qualitative
 - Quantitative
- Critique journal articles
- Compose abstracts of research projects
- Write a review of literature over a topic of choice

Mac users install Google Chrome or Firefox as the browser when accessing eCollege courses. It is strongly recommended that you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login in to eCollege, click on the ‘myCourses’ tab, and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Throughout the course there will be various assignments that will allow you to demonstrate what you have learned. Each week new material and assignments will be available on Monday. You should review the material before attempting to complete any assignments. Discussion topics will also be posted. Any requirements for posting in discussions will be noted in the Weekly overviews (accessed by clicking module headings on the left column in eCollege). There will be a 100-point midterm exam during Week 3 that must be completed by 11:59 PM on Sunday, July 27.

In addition to weekly assignments and discussions, your grade is also based on a major writing project that is due at the end of the course. You will be asked to write a review of literature (“lit. review”) that addresses a research question that you develop. The topic possibilities are endless, and you have freedom to choose any topic you wish, so long as it is related to agriculture. Please let me know if you need assistance in choosing a topic. I encourage you to choose a topic within your primary field (Ag. Education, Animal Science, etc.) More information regarding the review of literature assignment can be found in eCollege. Under Week 1 click on the “Lit Review Assignment” link.

I expect you to be active participants in the course, and I encourage you to use all of the resources available to you through eCollege. Use the Student Lounge. Participate in the class discussion forum, even when not required for a grade. You will get as much out of this class as you put into it. Throughout the material you will find highlighted topics for discussion.

Please contact me if you ever have any questions. You can send me a message via eCollege, or you can send me an e-mail at jackie.wahrmund@tamuc.edu. If you need to call me my office number is (903) 886-5717. I will respond to your questions as quickly as possible. Also consider that if you have a question, you may not be the only one. Therefore, I encourage you to use the Virtual Office in eCollege (link can be found on the left side under “Course Home”)

Grading:

Assignments/Activities

Week 1	50 points
Week 2	50
Week 3	150
Week 4	50
Week 5	150

Discussions

Week 1	50
Week 2	50
Week 3	50
Week 4	50
Week 5	50

Total 700 points

- A 630-700 points
- B 560-629
- C 490-559
- D 420-489
- F Less than 420 points

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library

Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

COURSE CALENDAR

WITH ASSIGNMENT AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

Week 1	July 7-13	Complete assignments by Sunday at 11:59 PM
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Principles of scientific writing2. Responsible conduct in research	
Week 2	July 14-20	Complete assignments by Sunday at 11:59 PM
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Types of scientific publications2. Experimental design3. References and citations	
Week 3	July 21-27	Complete assignments by Sunday at 11:59 PM
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Abstracts2. Tables and figures3. Basic statistics	
Week 4	July 28-August 3	Complete assignments by Sunday at 11:59 PM
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. More about statistics2. Poster presentations	
Week 5	August 4-7	Complete assignment by <i>Thursday</i> at 11:59 PM
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Principles of grant writing2. Review of literature	

DATES AND TOPICS MAY CHANGE AT INSTRUCTOR'S DISCRETION
ADVANCE WARNING WILL BE GIVEN FOR ANY CHANGES