



**Intro. to Horticulture (PLS 1315)
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2024**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Michaela Bledsoe, M.S.
Ad Interim Instructor – Horticulture / Greenhouse Manager

Office Location: PSC 101 and AG/ET 145

Office Hours: Monday 10:00am - 11:00 am Tuesdays 11:00am - 12:00pm
Wednesdays 1:00pm - 2:00pm Thursdays 10:00am - 11:00am
Fridays 9:00am - 10:00am (PSC) or by appointment

Office Phone: 903.886.5202

University Email Address: Michaela.Bledsoe@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Meets: 1/10/2024 – 5/10/2024
Lab: Tuesday & Thursday 8:00am – 9:15am
Location: AG/ET 253 (Ag Building, 2nd Floor)

Materials

Textbook(s) Required: None.

Course Description

This course introduces the student to the basic concepts and skills utilized in horticulture. Topics will include basic botanical concepts such as morphology, anatomy, taxonomy, physiology, genetics, and propagation as they apply to the growth and use of plants in horticulture.

Prerequisites: None.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of and be able to communicate well concerning basic botanical concepts such as plant taxonomy, morphology, anatomy, physiology, mineral nutrition, reproduction, and genetics as they apply to horticultural crops.
2. Students will recognize plant responses to changing environmental conditions, such as drought, heat, cold, and changes in light.
3. Acquaint the student with the broad field of horticulture including greenhouse and nursery crops, ornamental horticulture, pomology, and olericulture.
4. Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances or data.
5. Student communication will be clear, purposeful, and make appropriate use of evidence, data and technology where applicable.
6. Students will be able to interpret, test, and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data.
7. Students will be able to engage with peers in a project that demonstrates their understanding of relevant course theories and concepts.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Basic knowledge of Microsoft office (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint) and familiarity with D2L. Students will need reliable internet access to retrieve course materials from D2L and submit assignments or complete online quizzes if needed.

Instructional Methods

Lecture of materials presented with activities assigned to enhance understanding. PowerPoint slides and materials will be made available on the course D2L page for students to download and use.

Student Responsibilities

Expectation of Students

1. Students are expected to attend all lectures unless ill;
2. Be on time to class;
3. Completion of homework assignments, quizzes, and projects by the due dates;
4. Late submission of assignments or make-up of quizzes, and other work in this course will only be allowed for legitimate, pre-excused absences.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

ASSESSMENTS and GRADING

Course Evaluation

Student's final grade will be based on 900 points total from the following assessments:

Course work category	Points
Exams (4)	400
Comprehensive Final	200
Plant Papers (2)	100
Group Assignments (2)	100
Quizzes (10)	100
Total Points:	900

Grade Assignment

Letter grades for the course will be assigned according to the chart below:

Letter Grade	Point Equivalent	Percentage Equivalent
A	> 810 points	>90%
B	720 - 809 points	80-89%
C	630 - 719 points	70-79%
D	540 - 629 points	60-69%
F	< 539 points	<60%

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Attendance and Participation

You are responsible for regular attendance and your own grade. Roll will be taken daily. If you are not in class when your name is called you will be considered absent. Absences without a valid excuse (to be determined by the instructor) will be considered unexcused. A student with eight or more unexcused absences will receive a grade of F for the course. No makeup exam will be provided for those with unexcused absences.

Makeup

There will be **no** make-ups offered for material, test/exam, or any coursework missed without legitimate reasons. The decision to offer make-up material will be made by the instructor based on the situation. If you are reading this, thank you for reading the syllabus. Please email me telling me that you read the syllabus to receive five bonus points. Please contact the instructor for help if you have difficulty meeting the deadline in advance. Also, please notify the instructor of any issues as soon as possible before grade posting (normally within one week) if you miss the due date.

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities will be made available throughout the course.

Withdrawal

Please contact the instructor before proceeding with the withdrawal process.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

AI use in course

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

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Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

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Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Lecture Schedule: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:00am-9:15am Location: AG/ET 253

Week	Topic
1 (1/10-1/14)	Horticulture, Vegetative Morphology
2 (1/15 – 1/21)	Reproductive Morphology Stem and Leaf Anatomy
3 (1/22 – 1/28)	Group Project I – Plant Morphology
4 (1/29 – 2/4)	Photosynthesis, Respiration
5 (2/5 – 2/11)	Biology of Propagation, Genetics / Exam I
6 (2/12 – 2/18)	Propagation by Seed, Asexual Propagation
7 (2/19 – 2/25)	Propagation Environment I and II
8 (2/26 – 3/3)	Growing Media
9 (3/4 – 3/10)	Horticultural Biology, Plant Hardiness / Exam II
10 (3/11 – 3/17)	Spring Break (No Classes)
11 (3/18 – 3/24)	Landscape Soils, Plant Installation
12 (3/25 – 3/31)	Trees / Shrubs / Perennials / Annuals
13 (4/1 – 4/7)	Group Project II – Genetics / Exam III
14 (4/8 – 4/14)	Vegetables, Fruits, Melons
15 (4/15 – 4/21)	FFA Area V & VII CDE (4/16)
16 (4/22 – 4/28)	Nuts, Turfgrass Species
17 (4/29 – 5/5)	Turfgrass Cultural Practices / Exam IV
18 (5/6 – 5/10)	Finals Exam

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