

Course Description: This course provides an extensive overview of agriculture and food security issues and practices at the local level **in cities** in the U.S. and abroad.

Textbooks

Rangarajan, A., & Riordan, M. (2019). **The Promise of Urban Agriculture: National Study of Commercial Farming in Urban Areas.** Washington, DC: United States Department of Agriculture/Agricultural Marketing Service and Cornell University Small Farms Program. Available (free for download) at: https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Promise-of-Urban-Ag_Full_102919-1.pdf

Cather, A. (2008). **Urban Grower's Manual.** The Food Project, Inc. Lincoln, MA. Available (free for download) at: https://web.wpi.edu/Pubs/E-project/Available/E-project-121510-165023/unrestricted/Food_Project_-_Urban_Agriculture_Manual.pdf

Additional course material will come from a variety of sources including scientific and professional journals, publications from governmental agencies, information from agricultural organizations, and guest presenters. Other documents/handouts will be provided through your university D2L account.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course the student will be able to-

- a. **Learning Outcome 1:** Students will be able to demonstrate *knowledge* of urban agriculture in our present food system as well as future prospects.
- b. **Learning Outcome 2:** Students will be able to *apply* knowledge of urban agriculture as evidenced through course related activities and assignments.
- c. **Learning Outcome 3:** Students will be able to view themselves as *engaged* citizens within the context of urban agriculture and its relevance to food security in our region and parts of the world.

The following **instructional objectives** will guide course content to achieve these outcomes.

1. Recognize historical and contemporary issues in urban agriculture.
2. Identify, analyze, and utilize various sources/types of information and:
 - a. Discuss *case studies* and examples of urban agriculture initiatives,
 - b. Distinguish between commercial and subsistence enterprises,
 - c. Determine relevant sources of training and professional development.
 - d. Recognize agencies and organizations supporting urban agriculture.

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3. Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of specific urban farming methods.
4. Present contrasting and/or informative viewpoints in a civil and effective manner.
5. Compose informative and persuasive essays on relevant topics.
6. Develop and deliver an informative presentation.
7. Examine barriers and incentives to urban agriculture.
8. Identify sources of influence in the development of regulations and policies affecting the production, distribution, and management of food grown in urban settings.
9. Engage in urban agriculture activities in field setting through service learning.
10. Utilize various communication techniques to present and reflect on urban agriculture concepts and practices.

Grade Determination:

	<i>Possible Points</i>
Completion of online discussions (12 @ 10 pts each)	120
Introductory video	80
Video presentation (2 minutes) over specific case study	100
Poster presentation over a <i>youth program</i> in urban agriculture	100
Farm-Based Experiential Learning summary and reflection	100
Final Reflections	100

$$\text{Your Grade (\%)} = \frac{\text{Points Earned}}{600} \times 100$$

A = 90-100 B = 80-89 C = 70-79 D = 60-69 F = below 60%

Class Attendance and Participation in Discussions

Class attendance and participation will be monitored by student submission of Discussion post for weekly modules. Weekly review of the assigned content in each module and response to corresponding Discussion and Assignment, if applicable, is essential for successful completion of the course. Discussions and assignments are monitored by both the professor and TA for this class and either may provide feedback related to your submission.

Introductory Video

Student will prepare and submit a 30-45 second video introducing themselves (including major, hometown, or other interesting fact) in response to the Module 1 discussion prompt.

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Video Farm/Case Study Report

Each student will identify a case study from urban agriculture examples provided. practices. The student may read reviews webpages, Facebook page and/or conduct informal interviews to develop a 2-3 minute video presentation. The video presentation will be posted to a corresponding Assignment folder in D2L.

Farm-Based Experiential Learning

Students will be expected to complete **10 hours of farm-based experiential learning related to urban agriculture (including school and community gardening)** or general farming techniques that could be adapted to urban settings. A summary/reflection of these experiences must be provided with evidence of engagement and completion as described further in D2L.

Opportunities exist for farm-based experiential learning at Twin Oaks Farm for Experiential Learning, our university-owned, student-operated fruit, nut, and vegetable farm. Students may also use engagement with *Lion Gardeners on the Go*, a new service-learning initiative providing assistance to schools and communities to establish new gardens. Other opportunities for urban farm-based experiential learning are available through the *North Texas Alliance for Urban Agricultural Education*, the school garden oriented non-profit, *Grow Garden Grow*, or via *GROW North Texas*, a Dallas-based non-profit oriented to empowering urban and local producers and increasing access to fresh produce for those who are struggling financially. **Students who do not live in the Commerce or DFW metroplex should contact the professor for alternatives.**

Note that 5 hours of farm-based learning may be completed by assisting with one of the Area V and VI FFA Career Development Events hosted by the university on April 15. All course in CASNR will be cancelled that day for student to engage in this service-learning opportunity. It is also considered an excused absence from other courses, contingent upon prior notice to each instructor with appropriate documentation.

Poster Presentations

Each student will create a *poster presentation* elaborating on a program for youth in urban agriculture. Presentations will be **submitted in D2L**.

Final Reflections (in lieu of final exam)

Each student will compose an essay that synthesizes the key elements of issues and practices discussed, facts presented, and opinions shared during the course. The professor will provide 3-4 prompts from which the student will respond to one. At the professor's discretion, he may choose to use a traditional objective final exam.

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Written Assignments and Format

The Research Brief, presentation, and essays should be written in a format compatible with the *American Psychological Association (APA) Manual for Publication*, 7th edition. A synopsis and tutorial on scientific writing, including the use of APA format is available from the Online Writing Lab at Purdue University (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>). Personal face-to-face assistance with editing and format suggestions is available from the on-campus Writing Center at TAMU-Commerce.

Syllabus Addendum for Dr. Bob Williams for the Spring 2025 Semester

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours are available for student conferences with the professor for additional course support and, if applicable, academic/career advisement. The following hours will be maintained for this purpose, provided they are not circumvented by administrative assigned tasks beyond the professors control, professional travel to conferences or meetings, or medical appointments for professor or his household dependents.

Monday	9:00-9:50 a.m.
Tuesday	9:30-11:30 a.m.
Wednesday	9:00-9:50 a.m.
Thursday	by appointment
Friday	by appointment

TECHNOLOGY ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

The electronic gradebook on D2L will be used in this course. 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.

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace [D2L] , please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words “[click here](#)” to submit an issue via email.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

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Interaction with Instructor Statement

The professor and GAs or SIs will be accessible to students via email as well as the professor will have specific office hours and times when students may schedule an appointment. Email is the most effective form of correspondence with the professor. Do not attempt to text, Skype, or Facetime the professor. Response to emails, except for the weekends or during times which the professor may be in remote area conducting research, will normally occur within 24 hours or receipt of the original message.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

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/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

[Netiquette http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html)

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>

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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 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

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

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.

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.

COVID-19 /Pandemic Conditions and Response

If another pandemic occurs, you may face periods of isolation or restriction of movement. Since this is an online course, it is designed for your completion from anywhere that

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AG 352 *Urban Agriculture*
Course Syllabus

Office AGIT 247 903-886-5350 Fax 903-886-5990
Dr. Bob Williams
Bob.Williams@tamuc.edu

internet access exists. If you do not have internet access in your current residence, you need to identify how you will access your assignments if you cannot leave. This may include the use of a smart phone or other digital device that can offer connectivity. Most assignments can be completed offline, but the internet may be required for research, online discussions, and the uploading of assignments/projects. If you have a medical reason for an assignment to be delayed, I will excuse that. Internet access, or the lack of it, is not a medical excuse.

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