



## PLS 326- Forage and Pasture Crops

### Spring 2025 Syllabus

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#### Course Information

**Instructor:** Dr. Grace Flusche Ogden

**E-mail:** [grace.ogden@tamuc.edu](mailto:grace.ogden@tamuc.edu) (preferred)

**Expected response time:** 72 hours

**Office:** AGET 249 | Twin Oaks Office

**Office Hours:** MW 10-10:50 at AGET 249 | Twin Oaks Office 10-12 T/TR

**Lecture Meeting time/Place:** Lecture MW 9-9:50am AGET 238; Lab W 1-2:50pm PSC 101.

**Course Purpose:** Welcome to PLS 326! This course is designed to introduce students to forage and pasture crop principles in Texas and across the US.

**Course Text:** Southern Forages. Author: BALL. ISBN: 9780996019927. Cost for a new book through the bookstore is ~\$70.

#### Learning Objectives

- Describe the use and function of forage and pasture crops
- Describe the characteristics that make a desirable forage or pasture crop
- Identify common forage and pasture crops used across the US
- Recall common insects, diseases, and weeds in forage and pasture crops
- Understand current challenges in forage and pasture crops

#### Grading

**Course Grading:** Grades will be based on quizzes, homework, assignments, and exams. A total of 800 points will be available throughout the semester, with only 800 points counting toward the student's final grade.

A= 720-800

B= 640-719

C= 560-639

D= 480-559

F= <479

Course Work Category	# of opportunities available	Available Points	Maximum Points
Quizzes	~20	200	200
Exams	2	210	200
Student Project	1	200	200
Group Project	1	200	200
<b>Total</b>		<b>850</b>	<b>800</b>

**Grade Disputes:** Students have seven days from the date of any grade assessment to dispute their grade. Email Dr. Ogden with “PLS 326 Grade Dispute” in the subject line. It is the student’s responsibility to check their grades on D2L regularly. If you think there is an error, you must alert Dr. Ogden within a week.

### Course Work

**Quizzes:** Approximately 20 quizzes will be given throughout the semester. 220 points worth of quizzes will be available, only 200 points count toward final grade. Quizzes may be given via D2L or in-class.

**Exams:** Two (2) exams will be administered. Each exam will be worth 100 points, with the potential for up to 10 bonus points. Exam instructions will vary by exam, read instructions carefully. All exams are to be taken individually- you may not consult your peers or others about any of your exam material. Cheating will not be tolerated.

**Student Project:** Each student will select a unique forage/pasture crop and give a presentation over the crop. The presentation should be **5-8 minutes long**, include scientific facts, and feature pictures of the crop. Typical information to include in the presentation: plant common name, scientific name, growing season, crop utilization, region grown, growth habit, ideal climate for growth, center of origin, center of production, do livestock/wildlife utilize the forage, do humans consume the forage, and societal impact of the crop. Include any interesting issues/facts about the crop too- particularly if it’s considered an invasive crop or weed in some areas. This assignment is worth 100 points. Student forage selection is due by January 17 & presentations will follow in-class February 3 & 5.

**Group Project:** Students will be split into groups of two for group projects. The purpose of your group project is to construct an extension-style presentation over a topic covered in this course. **The presentation should be 12-15 minutes long, feature scientific-based information over the topic of your choice, and be suitable for presenting to the general public.** Presentation may utilize PowerPoint, hands-on demonstrations, mini-workshops, video, or other creative forms of work. Group project topics/drafts will be due on March 3 and completed projects will be presented in class on April 7 & 9. Students will submit peer evaluations for their group projects and evaluations will be considered when assigning each individual student’s grade for the project (be a good group member!!!). The group project is worth 200 points.

**Late work policy:** All assignments (other than your group project) must be submitted on or before April 25 at 11:59 pm for grading consideration. I reserve the right to change this policy or set a certain amount of assignments (2-3) that I will grade one week past the due date. Use this policy wisely. You do not have to email me to receive this grace period, just turn in your work.

### Expectations

1. Come to class prepared.
2. Arrive on time to class and stay for the duration of class.
3. Ask for help when you need it!
4. Be kind. Respect others. Engage in civil and relevant discussion.
5. **Academic Honesty.** See Texas A&M University-Commerce Academic Honesty policy at the end of the syllabus.

**Classroom conduct:** Students who engage in behavior that disrupts the learning environment may be asked to leave class.

**Correspondence:** E-mail is the best (only) way to contact me, besides coming to my office. Office visits are encouraged! ☺

Please put “PLS 326” in the subject line of all emails pertaining to class. Include your full name in your email.

## **Mandatory University Addendums to Syllabus**

### 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](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

[https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom\\_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu](https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu)

### 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](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

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**

### 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.

### 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

Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/document/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm1.d.pdf>

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

### 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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

<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/34SafetyEmployeesAndStudents/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.

#### A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

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](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

#### Use of AI in Coursework

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). 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