



## EAST TEXAS A&M

**CRN: 80757**

### **AGED 371 – Agricultural and Youth Leadership**

#### **Instructor**

Whitney Figland, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor  
Office Location: AGET 153  
Email: [Whitney.Figland@etamu.edu](mailto:Whitney.Figland@etamu.edu)

#### **Course Meeting Times & Location**

Tuesdays, 8:00 am – 9:15 am, AGET 238  
Thursdays, 8:00 am – 9:15 am, AGET 238

#### **Office Hours**

I have an open-door policy for office hours. If my door is open, you may come in. You may also email me to schedule an in-person appointment or for general questions during normal business hours.

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

#### **Course Description**

Agricultural and Youth Leadership. Application of leadership principles with emphasis on interpersonal and personal skills, organizational structure, and working with youth in FFA and 4-H Club activities.

#### **Learning Outcomes**

This course is designed to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required to organize, plan, coordinate, deliver, and evaluate co-curricular and non-formal educational programs in youth development and leadership. The roles and responsibilities of advisors for youth organizations as well as practical and motivational aspects of experiential learning will be included. Upon completion of this courses, students should be able to:

- Define leadership and apply basic principles of leadership to a secondary agriculture program
- Describe leadership theories
- Explain the importance of autonomy and youth voice through leadership activities
- Plan, coordinate, deliver, and evaluate FFA & 4-H leadership activities

#### **Course Textbook/Materials**

None required. All materials will be available on myLeo Online (D2L).  
The Official FFA Manual is available through [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org) online for free.

#### **Course Specific Procedures**

##### **General Policies**

- The use of any tobacco products is strictly prohibited in all classrooms and laboratories.
- Hats and caps should be removed while in class.
- Please suspend the use of all electronic devices during lecture other than for notetaking.
- No late work will be accepted in this course without pre-approval from the instructor.

## Professionalism

Professionals in the agricultural sciences and natural resources sector are guided by certain values and characteristics. Professional characteristics on which you will be judged in this course include punctuality, attendance, collegial attitude, and participation. Because this course relies extensively on discussion and class interaction, attendance is crucial to your success and that of your classmates. If you are ill or an emergency occurs, contact the instructor prior to the scheduled class time; otherwise, your attendance and participation are firm expectations.

## Attendance

Class participation will include class discussions as well as attendance. Attendance will be checked at each session. Immediate notification of your instructor of an EXCUSED absence is required. The opportunity to make up assignments as a result of an UNEXCUSED absence will be at the discretion of your instructor. Roll will be checked at each class meeting. You have 100 points for perfect attendance. Each absence will reduce that grade by the following scale:

0-1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
0%	10%	20%	35%	50%	100%

\*\*\* Two tardies equals one absence.

## Plagiarism

Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic F in the course. Students are expected to do their own work. Assistance with written assignments, such as proofreading or editing, is encouraged as long as the final concepts and product are those drafted and authored by the student. Information or materials (including ideas, quotes, data, procedures, etc.) from sources other than the student must be given proper credit through appropriate citation. The discipline of Agricultural Education uses the APA format (7th edition) as its primary style guide for publications.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

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

Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

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

## **Counseling Availability**

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)

## **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.

## **Citizenship**

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>

## **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.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS and ASSESSMENT

**Leadership Philosophy (100 Points)** – You will write a two-page (Double spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman, 1" Margins) paper explaining your personal philosophy on what makes a good leader and how that connects to youth leadership. **Due**

**LDE Presentation (100 Points)** – You will be assigned an FFA Leadership Development Event (LDE). You will develop a 10-minute informational presentation on the event to be presented in class. The purpose of this presentation will be to recruit middle/high school students to participate in the event and give them a brief overview of the competition. **Presentation due in class; materials uploaded by 10/10 @ 11:59 p.m.**

**LDE Training Notebook (100 Points)** – You will be assigned an FFA Leadership Development Event (LDE). You will create a training notebook for that event. The notebook should include the following: a general overview of the contest and how it works, rules for the contest, resources to help train a team, strategies for training a quality team, and a schedule or timeline for practicing and competing. **Due**

**Youth in Ag: Case Study Analysis (100 Points):** In this assignment, you will select and analyze a **real-life agricultural development program or initiative** that actively involves youth in agriculture. Your goal is to critically examine the program's **structure, goals, activities, and impact** on youth development and agricultural transformation.

**Invitational LDE Coordination (200 Points)** – You will be responsible for coordinating and organizing an event at the TAMUC Invitational LDE. This includes getting materials, finding judges, scheduling, judging, etc.

**Midterm Exam – Analysis of Youth Leadership Programs in Ag & Extension Education (150 Points)** – This midterm will consist of an analysis of youth leadership programs. This assignment requires that you interview a minimum of (2) agricultural education teachers, extension agents, or other non-formal education personal. The purpose of this project is to learn about the benefits, challenges, and opportunities regarding youth leadership from the perspective of those individuals and connect it to concepts learned in this course. The paper should be a minimum of four pages in length and follow formatting guidelines described in the syllabus. Further instructions will be presented in class and on MyLeo.

**Final Exam (200 Points)** – The final exam will be taken in class and will test your knowledge on concepts taught throughout the course.

**Professionalism/Participation (280 Points)** – As future educators you are expected to attend class every day and be on time. Roll will be checked at each class meeting. You are allowed one absence. After that you will lose 10% of your professionalism/participation points for each unexcused absence. Included in this grade is your participation in class discussions and activities. Professionalism will also be assessed by your ability to follow class policies and campus rules.

### **Grading Scale**

%	Letter Grade
90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
59 <	F

## Course Calendar

Week	Lecture Topic	Activity	Reading
1.	Overview/expectations; what is leadership?	Online discussion #1; Group sort	TBD
2.	Leadership theories; teaching leadership to youth	Online discussion #2	TBD
3.	Working with youth to acquire leadership skills, autonomy, and skill development	*Assignment 1 Due	TBD
4.	Developing youth leadership skills in community settings	Youth in Ag: Case Study Analysis Due	TBD
5.	FFA LDE Competition; Training Successful Teams LDE Training Notebook Prep	Group lesson activity; Online Discussion #3	Phipps. Chp. 24
6.	The influence of relationships with youth; overcoming obstacles; LDE Training Notebook Prep	Online Discussion #4; LDE Training Notebook Due	TBD
7.	LDE Presentations	LDE Presentations Due; Analysis of Youth Due-Midterm	TBD
8.	ETAMU invitational LDE Oct. 17 <sup>th</sup> 7 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Setup LDE competitions	TBD
9.	LDE Reflection & Recap.	Online Discussion #5; Group lecture	TBD
10.	Youth Participation & Group Facilitation	Facilitation Plan Activity	TBD
11.	Writing Lesson Plans/Targeted Objectives	In-Class Work	TBD
12.	Microteaching #1: Skills Demo	Lesson Plan Due	
13.	Microteaching #1: Skills Demo	Lesson Plan Due	
14.	No Class	No Class	
15.	Final reflection; make-ups		
16.	Final Exam TBD		

\*Schedule is tentative and may be changed by the instructor at any time