PLS 1315, Intro to Horticulture

COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Desire Djidonou, (Dr. D)
Associate Professor – Urban/Sustainable Horticulture
Office Location: Dallas campus, Room 2019 Hydroponics
Office Hours: M&W 11:00 am – 12:00 pm; (Dallas campus);
Office Phone:
Office Fax:
University Email Address: desire.djidonou@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: email

COURSE INFORMATION

Time & location: Class will meet M&W from 9:30a - 10:45a Campus: Dallas, Room: 2021 Agriculture Wet Lab.

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Required Textbook: None

Course Description

An overview of the concepts and practices used to grow horticultural crops. Topics covered include plant morphology, anatomy, taxonomy, growth and development, genetics, and physiological processes. The influence of environmental factors on plant growth and development; general considerations related to the production practices and economic importance of some horticultural crops will be covered in details.

Prerequisites: None.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Describe the main subdivisions of horticulture as an industry.
2. Describe the primary structure of plant cell, tissue, and organs, their functions and importance to plant growth and development.
3. Explain the processes of photosynthesis and respiration (the carbon cycle).
4. Describe the mechanisms of movement of water and mineral nutrients into and throughout the plant.
5. Describe the principles of efficient soil, substrates, water, and fertility management for sustainable production of horticultural crops.
6. Demonstrate effective written, graphic, and oral communication skills through the delivery of project presentations.

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 and complete online quizzes and exams if needed.

Instructional Methods

Lectures: The lecture materials (PowerPoint slides, video recording, and additional reading materials) will be made available on the course D2L page for students to download.

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 and exams by the due dates;
4. Late submission of assignments or make-up of exams and other work in this course will only be allowed for legitimate, pre-excused absences.

ASSESSMENTS and GRADING

Course evaluation

Exam 1 ……...100 points
Exam 2 ……...100 points
Exam 3 ……...100 points
Final……100 points
Student Presentation……100 points
Homework Assignments……..……50 points

Exams: (Multiple Choice, T/F, Matching, Short Answer, Critical essay): The exams will include material from lecture and additional reading assignments. Exam dates are given below in the tentative semester schedule.

Student presentations: With the instructor pre-approval, each student will pick one horticultural crop (flower, vegetable or herb crop, fruit tree). Each student will conduct a

literature search on the selected species and write a term paper on his/her crop describing how to grow the crop from seed to harvest (propagation, transplanting, fertilization and pest management plan, harvest and post-harvest handling, marketing. Each student will give a class presentation on his/her findings.
Homework assignments: 1-2 questions will be given throughout the semester to be answered using reading materials and/or other sources. Homework assignments will be posted on D2L and due by the following lecture.

Grade Assignment

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

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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**.**
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

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Attendance to lectures and lab activities are required unless ill.

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.

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

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University 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

East Texas A&M University 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

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
East Texas A&M University

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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/

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East A&M, 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

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.

http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Lecture Schedule

Week	Date	Lecture Topic
1	Aug 25 – 29	Welcome / Course overview – syllabus
		The Horticulture Industry
2	Sep 01 – 05	Cultivated Plants: Naming, Classifying
		Plant Anatomy: Cell and Tissues
3	Sep 08 – 12	Vegetative Morphology: Root, Stem, and Leaves
4	Sep 15 – 19	Reproductive Morphology: Flowers, Fruits and Seeds
		Exam 1
5	Sep 22 – 26	Photosynthesis and Respiration
6	Sep 29 – Oct 03	Plant Growth and Development
7	Oct 06 – 10	Environmental Factors and Plant Growth and Development
8	Oct 13 – 17	**Exam 2**
		Genetics and Plant Propagation
9	Oct 20 – 24	Soil and Growing Media
10	Oct 27 – 31	Plant Nutrition and Fertilizers
		Pests and Diseases
		Exam 3
11	Nov 03 – 07	Greenhouses and Related Climate-Controlling Structures
		Floriculture
12	Nov 10 – 14	Hydroponics
		Nursery and Landscape
13	Nov 17 – 21	Vegetable and Fruit Production
		Student presentation
14	Nov 24 – 28	Student Presentation
		No Class (Thanksgiving Break)

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15	Dec 01 – 05	Student Presentation
		Student Presentation
16	Dec 08	**FINAL EXAM (10:30 – 12:30)**

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