



EAST TEXAS A&M

PLS 1315 Introduction to Horticulture Course Syllabus: Spring 2026

Instructor: Derald Harp, Ph.D., Professor - Horticulture

Office Location: AgIT 143 and PSC 101

Office Hours: @PSC 101 MW 9-11 am
@AgIT 143 TR 9:30 – 10:30 am

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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

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.

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

Course Outline

Week 1	Horticulture, Vegetative Morphology
Week 2	Reproductive Morphology Stem and Leaf Anatomy
Week 3	Group Project I – Plant Morphology
Week 4	Photosynthesis, Respiration
Feb 9	Exam I
Week 5	Biology of Propagation, Genetics
Week 6	Propagation by Seed, Asexual Propagation
Week 7	Propagation Environment I and II
Week 8	Growing Media
Mar 9	Exam II
Week 9	Horticultural Biology, Plant Hardiness
Week 10	Landscape Soils, Plant Installation
Week 11	Trees / Shrubs / Perennials / Annuals
Week 12	Group Project II - Genetics
Apr 6	Exam III
Apr 14	Area V and VI Nursery / Landscape CDE
Week 13	Vegetables, Fruits, Melons
Week 14	Nuts, Turfgrass Species
Week 15	Turfgrass Cultural Practices
April 28	Exam IV
May 5	<i>Final Exam, 8 am</i>

Grading

1. 4 exams 400 points
2. Comprehensive Final 200 points
3. Plant Papers (2) 100 points
4. Group Assignments (2) 100 points
5. Quizzes 100 points
6. Grade Assignment 900+ = A
800 – 899 = B
700 – 799 = C
600 – 699 = D
below 600 = F

There will be no “Extra Credit” work offered.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance will be monitored each class period. If you are not in class when your name is called or when the daily quiz is turned in you will be considered absent. Absences without a valid excuse (to be determined by the instructor) will be considered unexcused and your final grade will be adjusted according to the following scale:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 2 absences | No adjustment to final grade |
| 8 or more absences | Final grade of F |

No makeup exam will be provided for those with unexcused absences.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. Students are expected to respect the rights of others in the class. Cell phones and other electronic equipment should be turned off prior to the beginning of class. Use of these items during class time, or any other unwarranted classroom disruption, will result in your immediate excusal from class for the remainder of the period.

You may bring drinks to class. Please finish any meals before class begins. The use of tobacco products during class time is strictly prohibited.

Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. Copying of others' work, use of disallowed material on exams, plagiarism in assignments, or cheating in any other form as defined by the instructor will result in a grade of zero for that assignment. Multiple infractions will result in a grade of 'F' for the course. No electronic equipment, except calculators, will be allowed during exams. Violation of this will result in an immediate grade of '0' for the exam.

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

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>

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>

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>

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

Waters Library 162

Phone (903) 886-5150

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: <https://www.etamu.edu/student-disability-services/>

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 Carry”

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 (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). 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.